STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 2009-208

July 9, 2009

RED SHIELD ACQUISITION, LLC
REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATION FOR RPS ELIGIBILITY

ORDER GRANTING NEW RENEWABLE RESOURCE CERTIFICATION

REISHUS, Chairman; VAFIADES and CASHMAN, Commissioners

I. SUMMARY

In this Order, we certify the Red Shield Acquisition, LLC (Red Shield) biomass facility as a Class I new renewable resource eligible to satisfy Maine's new renewable resource portfolio requirement pursuant to Chapter 311, § 3(B) of the Commission rules.

II. BACKGROUND

A. New Renewable Resource Portfolio Requirement

During its 2007 session, the Legislature enacted an Act To Stimulate Demand for Renewable Energy (Act). P.L. 2007, ch. 403 (codified at 35-A M.R.S.A. § 3210(3-A)). The Act added a mandate that specified percentages of electricity that supply Maine's consumers come from "new" renewable resources.\(^1\) Generally, new renewable resources are renewable facilities that have an in-service date, resumed operation or were refurbished after September 1, 2005. The percentage requirement starts at one percent in 2008 and increases in annual one percent increments to ten percent in 2017, unless the Commission suspends the requirement pursuant to the provisions of the Act.

As required by the Act, the Commission modified its portfolio requirement rule (Chapter 311) to implement the "new" renewable resource requirement (referred to as the renewable portfolio standard or RPS). Order Adopting Rule and Statement of Factual and Policy Basis, Docket No. 2007-391 (Oct. 22, 2007). The implementing

\(^1\) Maine's electric restructuring law, which became effective in March 2000, contained a portfolio requirement that mandated that at least 30% of the electricity to supply retail customers in the State come from eligible resources, which are either renewable or efficient resources. 35-A M.R.S.A. § 3210(3). The Act did not modify this 30% requirement.
rules designated the “new” renewable resource requirement as “Class I”\textsuperscript{2} and incorporated the resource type, capacity limit and the vintage requirements as specified in the Act. The rules thus state that a new renewable resource used to satisfy the Class I portfolio requirement must be of the following types:

- fuel cells;
- tidal power;
- solar arrays and installations;
- wind power installations;
- geothermal installations;
- hydroelectric generators that meet all state and federal fish passage requirement; or
- biomass generators, including generators fueled by landfill gas.

In addition, except for wind power installations, the generating resource must not have a nameplate capacity that exceeds 100 MW. Finally, the resource must satisfy one of four vintage requirements. These are:

1) renewable capacity with an in-service date after September 1, 2005;

2) renewable capacity that has been added to an existing facility after September 1, 2005;

3) renewable capacity that has not operated for two years or was not recognized as a capacity resource by the ISO-NE or the NMISA and has resumed operation or has been recognized by the ISO-NE or NMISA after September 1, 2005; or

4) renewable capacity that has been refurbished after September 1, 2005 and is operating beyond its useful life or employing an alternate technology that significantly increases the efficiency of the generation process.

The implementing rules (Chapter 311, § 3(B)(4)) establish a certification process that requires generators to pre-certify facilities as a new renewable resource under the requirements of the rule and provides for a Commission determination of resource eligibility on a case-by-case basis.\textsuperscript{3} The rule contains the information that

\textsuperscript{2} The “new” renewable resource requirement was designated as Class I because the requirement is similar to portfolio requirements in other New England states that are referred to as “Class I.” Maine’s pre-existing “eligible” resource portfolio requirement is designated as Class II.

\textsuperscript{3} In the Order Adopting Rule at 6, the Commission noted that a request for certification can be made at any time so that a ruling can be obtained before a capital investment is made in a generation facility.
must be included in a petition for certification and specifies that the Commission shall provide an opportunity for public comment if a petitioner seeks certification under vintage categories 2, 3 and 4. Finally, the rule specifies that the Commission may revoke a certification if there is a material change in circumstance that renders the generation facility ineligible as a new renewable resource.

B. Petition for Certification

On June 30, 2009, Red Shield filed a petition to certify its biomass facility as a Class I renewable resource. The Red Shield facility is a 14.5 (net), 16 MW (gross) biomass facility located in Old Town, Maine. The facility currently generates electricity by burning bark and wood chips, but is permitted to burn wood pulp screening rejects and construction and demolition wood. The electricity is used by Red Shield in its business operations with the excess sold into the ISO-NE energy market.

According to the petition, the major components of the Red Shield facility are from a biomass facility located in Athens, Maine that shut down in 2001. After the expenditure of over $25 million for the components and new equipment, the facility was placed into service during 2007.

On July 8, 2009, Red Shield filed a supplement to its petition, stating that a portion of the production that is reported to the ISO-NE and the GIS administrator comes from the Great Works dam (which is not eligible for Class I certification). Red Shield indicated that it would address this issue by registering the facility as a dual fuel unit and separately reporting the biomass and hydroelectric production to the ISO-NE and the GIS. In addition, Red Shield has also created two behind-the-meter accounts in the GIS to separately report the biomass and hydroelectric behind-the-meter consumption. Finally, Red Shield indicated that it would sell the GIS certificates associated with the biomass facility to third parties, less a hold back for its compliance with Maine’s RPS.

III. DECISION

The Commission has delegated to the Director of Technical Analysis the authority to certify generation facilities as Class I new renewable resources pursuant to Chapter 311, § 3(B) of the Commission rules. Delegation Order, Docket No. 2008-184 (April 23, 2008). Based on the information provided by Red Shield, I conclude that the biomass facility satisfies the resource type, capacity limit and vintage requirements of the rule. The facility is a biomass-fired facility that has effectively begun operations after September 1, 2005. In addition, the Commission has previously concluded that behind-the-meter generation can qualify for Maine’s portfolio requirement. Lincoln Paper and Tissue, Docket No. 2008-173 (January 27, 2009). Accordingly, the Red Shield biomass facility is hereby certified as a Class I new renewable resource that is eligible to satisfy Maine’s new renewable resource portfolio requirement pursuant to Chapter 311, § 3 of the Commission rules. Red Shield shall provide timely notice to the Commission of any material change in the operation of the facility or the metering and reporting as
described in the petition and the supplement filed in this proceeding, including changes to the type of fueled used in the electricity generation process.

BY ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

[Signature]
Faith Huntington