

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Zanesville Energy, LLC)	Case No. 14-2255-EL-REN
Application for Certification as an Ohio)	
Renewable Energy Resource Generating Facility)	
)	

REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION
SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF THE STAFF OF
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

CASE HISTORY

On December 19, 2014, Zanesville Energy, LLC (Applicant) submitted an application for certification by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO or Commission) of compressed natural gas (CNG), that has been produced from biologically derived methane gas, as a renewable energy resource generator.¹ The Applicant's facility is located at 6400 Maysville Pike, in Zanesville, Ohio (the Facility). This Facility was developed by the quasar energy group.

According to the application, the Facility is an anaerobic digester facility that converts biomass materials such as biosolids, fats, oil and grease, and food waste into biologically derived methane gas, which is also referred to as biogas. These biomass materials were previously unused or otherwise would be sent to landfills. The application indicates that the Facility was placed in-service in November 2010.

On January 12, 2015, an Attorney Examiner Entry suspended the automatic approval process for this application. On April 15, 2015, Staff sent the Applicant an initial set of questions related to the application. On May 14, 2015, Staff held site visits with the Applicant's representative at the Facility and another similar anaerobic digester facility. The Applicant filed its responses to the initial data request on October 28, 2015. Staff and Applicant conducted conference calls on November 23, 2015, December 7, 2015, and December 21, 2015. The Applicant filed answers to questions raised during these conference calls on December 23, 2015 and December 29, 2015.

STAFF REVIEW

The Staff's review of an application for certification of a renewable energy resource facility consists primarily, but not exclusively, of three items: (1) the deliverability of the facility's output to the state of Ohio, (2) the resource/ technology used at the facility, and (3) the facility's placed in-service date.

1) Deliverability

The Applicant indicates that its Facility is located in Ohio, therefore the Facility meets the generation deliverability requirements, pursuant to R.C. 4928.64(B)(3)(a).

¹ See, Revised Code (R.C.) 4928.645(A)(3)

2) Resource/Technology

The Facility accepts approximately 138 wet tons of biomass per day from various sources. All waste material is delivered to the site by truck. The biomass which is fed into the anaerobic digester is converted to biogas. The biogas is then used to fuel a nominally rated 1.0 megawatt (MW) internal combustion engine and electric generator set.² The biogas is also cleaned and compressed to create CNG for use in CNG vehicles.

Staff concurs with Applicant's proposed methodology³ for converting the CNG metering measurement to an equivalent MWH production level. Based on Staff's review of the application, interrogatory responses, site visits of similar facilities owned and operated by Quasar Energy Group, and discussions with the Applicant, Staff concludes that the Facility does produce CNG that has been produced from biologically derived methane gas. As such, Staff concludes that this Facility qualifies as a renewable energy resource, pursuant to R.C. 4928.645(A)(3).

3) Placed In-Service Date

The Applicant indicated in its application that the placed in-service date of the Facility was November 15, 2010, thereby satisfying the requirement of R.C. 4928.64(A)(1), which requires a qualifying renewable energy resource to have a placed-in-service date on or after January 1, 1998.

4) Additional Considerations

- (a) The Facility must be registered with either M-RETS or PJM EIS' GATS, the two attribute tracking systems currently recognized by the Commission. The Applicant indicates that, once approved, it would register the Facility in the PJM GATS.
- (b) Consistent with the Commission's decision in Case No. 11-2667-EL-REN, the Staff would typically recognize a certified facility's renewable output beginning with the later of the application filing date or the facility's placed in-service date.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Based on the foregoing analysis, Staff recommends that the Commission certify the Facility as a renewable energy resource generating facility since it satisfies all the applicable eligibility requirements.

² The electricity produced by the generator facility received renewable energy certificate number 11-BIO-OH-GATS-1553 from the PUCO on June 29, 2011 in Case No. 10-0692-EL-REN.

³ Applicant responses dated December 23, 2015 (Question 5).

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Summary: Staff Review and Recommendation electronically filed by Mark C Bellamy on behalf of PUCO Staff