

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Application for Certification
As an Ohio Renewable Energy Resource Generation
Facility for 645 East County Road – 28.35 kW

Case No. 20-1722-EL-REN

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

CASE HISTORY

On October 20, 2020, a representative submitted an application on behalf of North Vernon (Applicant) for certification of the 645 East County Road – 28.35 kW (Facility).

The Facility is located at the North Vernon Municipal Airport in North Vernon, IN. Comprised of 90 solar photovoltaic modules, the aggregate capacity of the Facility is 0.02835 megawatts. According to the application, the Facility was placed into service in April 2019.

On November 18, 2020, an Attorney Examiner Entry suspended the automatic approval process for this case.

On December 8, 2020, the Applicant provided a response to Staff inquiries about how to distinguish the above 90 modules from the modules included in multiple other North Vernon applications located on the same site.

STAFF REVIEW

The Staff's consideration of applications for certification of a renewable energy resource facility consists primarily, but not exclusively, of three statutory criteria: (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

Under R.C. 4928.64(B)(3), a qualifying renewable energy resource must either have a facility located in Ohio, or be deliverable into Ohio. Further, Ohio Administrative Code (Ohio Adm.Code) 4901:1-40-01(F) defines "deliverable into this state" as follows:

"Deliverable into this state" means that the electricity or qualifying biologically derived methane gas originates from a facility within a state contiguous to Ohio. It may also include electricity originating from other locations, pending a demonstration that the electricity is physically deliverable to the state.

Because the Facility is located in Indiana, a contiguous state to Ohio, Staff concludes that the Facility meets the deliverability requirement and is physically deliverable to the state of Ohio.

2) Resource/Technology

The R.C. defines "renewable energy resource" for purposes of the state's renewable portfolio standard (RPS).¹ This statutory definition of a renewable energy resource includes solar photovoltaic, and therefore Staff concludes that the Facility satisfies the resource/technology provision of the statute.

3) Placed In-Service Date

The Facility must satisfy one of the applicable statutory provisions pertaining to the placed in-service date.² With the Facility having been placed in-service after January 1, 1998, Staff finds that the Facility satisfies the applicable placed in-service date requirement.

4) Additional Considerations

- (a) For electric generating facilities, Commission rules require that facilities above 6 kilowatts measure their renewable output with a utility-grade meter.³ The meter described in the application satisfies this rule requirement.
- (b) The Facility must be registered with either M-RETS or PJM EIS' GATS, the two attribute tracking systems currently recognized by the Commission. The application indicates the Facility will be registered with GATS (Generation Attribute Tracking System).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff has completed its review of the application and any supplemental information provided by the Applicant. Staff has determined that the Facility appears to satisfy the Commission's requirements for certification as a renewable energy facility. Staff recommends that the Facility be certified.

¹ R.C. 4928.01(A)(37)

² R.C. 4928.64(A)(1)

³ Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-40-04(C)(2)(e).

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Summary: Staff Review and Recommendation electronically filed by Kristin Clingan on behalf of Staff