BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Application for Certification	)	
As an Ohio Renewable Energy Resource Generating	)	Case No. 21-0911-EL-REN
Facility for the Haverhill Coke Company Facility	)	

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

CASE HISTORY

Haverhill Coke Company LLC (Applicant) applied for certification of its Haverhill Coke Company LLC facility (Facility) as an Ohio renewable energy resource generating facility on August 31, 2021.[1] Specifically, the Applicant is seeking certification as a waste energy recovery (WER) system relying on exhaust heat.

The Haverhill Coke Plant is a heat-recovery cokemaking facility located in Franklin Furnace, Ohio. According to the application, the Haverhill Coke Plant consists of two phases which are characterized as parallel coking modules. Phase 1, placed in service in 2005, does not have an electric generation component. Phase 2, placed in service in 2008, includes a 67 megawatt steam turbine electric generator, and it is this second phase for which the Applicant is seeking certification.

The Phase 2 plant consists of both a cokemaking facility and the WER system, with the cokemaking process being the exclusive source of the waste heat for the WER system. The Phase 2 cokemaking facility consists of several components, including 100 coke ovens and associated coal handling/storage systems. The Phase 2 WER system, comprised of components such as heat recovery steam generators (HRSGs) and the steam turbine generator, is the focus of this application and represents "the Facility" as referenced in this document.

The Applicant has projected that the Facility will generate approximately 325,000 megawatt-hours per year, with all of the Facility's electric generation exported to the electric grid via its interconnection to the Ohio Power system.

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[1] The Applicant submitted its application on August 31, 2021, and Staff initiated a case to consider the application on the Commission's Docketing Information System on September 1, 2021.

An Attorney Examiner Entry issued on September 20, 2021, suspended the automatic approval process for this case.

Staff sent the Applicant an initial set of questions on October 19, 2021. The Applicant filed its responses on November 29, 2021. Staff sent an additional question on December 6, 2021, with the Applicant filing its response on December 22, 2021.

STAFF REVIEW

The Staff's review of applications 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

Renewable energy resources must be located in Ohio, or their output deliverable to Ohio, in order to be eligible for certification.[2]

As the Facility is grid-connected and located in Ohio, Staff concludes that the Facility satisfies the deliverability provision of the statute.

2) Resource/Technology

The R.C. defines "renewable energy resource" for purposes of the state's renewable portfolio standard (RPS).[3] This definition includes the following:

> "waste energy recovery systems placed into service or retrofitted on or after the effective date of the amendment of this section by S.B. 315 of the 129th general assembly, September 10, 2012, except that a waste energy recovery system described in division (A)(38)(b) of this section may be included only if it was placed into service between January 1, 2002, and December 31, 2004."[4]

When specifically defining a WER system, the statute includes reference to a facility that generates electricity through the conversion of energy from "… exhaust heat from engines or manufacturing, industrial, commercial, or institutional sites, except for exhaust heat from a facility whose primary purpose is the generation of electricity."[5]

[2] R.C. 4928.64(B)(3)
[3] R.C. 4928.01(A)(37)
[4] R.C. 4928.01(A)(37)(a)
[5] R.C. 4928.01(A)(38)

Because the Facility is a WER system that generates electricity exclusively using exhaust heat from an adjacent cokemaking process, Staff concludes that the Facility represents a resource or technology that is eligible for certification as a renewable facility under the renewable portfolio standard.

3) Placed In-Service Date

As indicated above, WER systems that potentially qualify under R.C. 4928.01(A)(38)(a)(i), must have been placed into service or retrofitted on or after September 10, 2012.[6]

The Applicant indicated a placed in-service date for the Facility of August 2008, which would not satisfy this specific statutory placed in-service date requirement. However, the application indicates that significant capital improvements have been completed at the Facility, including at least the following:

- the addition of a new HRSG and gas sharing tunnel in 2015, at a cost of approximately $43 million;
- component replacements on the steam turbine generator in 2016 at a cost of approximately $3 million; and
- upgrades to the original HRSGs completed in 2020 at a cost of approximately $11.2 million.

With numerous retrofits to components of the WER system completed after September 10, 2012, Staff concludes that the Facility satisfies the placed in-service requirement under R.C. 4928.01(A)(38)(a)(i).

By satisfying the placed in-service date requirement in R.C. 4928.01(A)(38)(a)(i), the Facility should be recognized as a renewable energy resource. However, to be a qualified renewable energy resource, the Facility also would have to satisfy the applicable placed in-service date requirement in R.C. 4928.64(A).

With a placed in-service date after January 1, 1998, the Facility satisfies the applicable placed in-service requirement in R.C. 4928.64(A)(1).

4) Additional Considerations

(a) For electric generating facilities, Commission rules require that facilities above 6 kW measure their renewable output with a utility-grade meter.[7] The facility meter described in the application satisfies this rule requirement.

[6] R.C. 4928.01(A)(37)(a)
[7] Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-40-04(C)(2)(e).

(b) The facility must be registered with either M-RETS or PJM EIS' GATS, the two attribute tracking systems currently recognized by the Commission. According to the application, the Facility will be registered on GATS.

(c) The statute indicates that WER systems are not eligible renewable energy resources if they are or were included in an energy efficiency program of an electric distribution utility on or after January 1, 2012.[8] The Applicant confirmed that the WER system has not been included in any electric distribution utility efficiency program.

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.

[8] R.C. 4928.01(A)(37)(a)