

**PROPOSED REGULATION OF THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF NEVADA**

LCB File No. R186-09

December 16, 2009

EXPLANATION – Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets ~~[omitted material]~~ is material to be omitted.

AUTHORITY: §§1-14, NRS 701B.840 and 703.025.

A REGULATION relating to renewable energy; providing definitions relating to the Waterpower Energy Systems Demonstration Program; providing procedures for applications to participate in the Program; revising incentives for participants in the Program; providing procedures for the payment of incentives for participants in the Program; revising requirements for the annual plan filed relating to the Program; providing requirements for waterpower energy systems used for the Program; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Section 1. Chapter 701B of NAC is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 9, inclusive, of this regulation.

Sec. 2. *“Host customer” means either the utility customer of record at the location where the waterpower energy system will be located, or a person who has been designated by the utility customer of record in a letter to the utility explaining the relationship between that person and the utility customer of record.*

Sec. 3. *“System owner” means the owner of the generating equipment at the time an incentive is paid. In the case of a waterpower energy system owned by a third party, the third party is the system owner.*

Sec. 4. *For all categories of property:*

1. An application for the reservation of an incentive must be made using a form approved by the Commission and must include, without limitation:

(a) Signatures of the applicant, host customer and system owner, if different from the host customer;

(b) If the system owner is not the host customer, a copy of the executed agreement between the host customer and the system owner; and

(c) Any documentation required by the utility substantiating ownership of the equipment.

2. If an application is found to be incomplete or requires clarification, the utility shall request additional information. If the applicant has not submitted the requested information within 20 calendar days, the application will be cancelled, and the applicant may resubmit the application to the utility. The utility shall treat all resubmitted applications as new applications and process them in sequence with other new applications. Funds for an incentive are not reserved until the utility receives all information and documentation required for the application and the project is approved.

3. The utility shall review the application for completeness and determine eligibility. Once the utility approves the application, the utility shall issue a notice confirming that a specific incentive amount is reserved for the project. The waterpower energy system must be purchased, installed and put into operation by the expiration date listed on the notice. The notice must list:

(a) The specific reservation dollar amount;

(b) The approved kilowatt capacity of the project; and

(c) The expiration date.

4. The applicant must complete the installation of a waterpower energy system not later than 12 months after the applicant receives the notice pursuant to subsection 3 from the utility, unless the expiration date on the notice is sooner.

5. To claim the incentive, the applicant must submit a form approved by the Commission to the utility after the waterpower energy system is purchased, installed and put into operation.

The form must include, without limitation:

(a) Signatures of the applicant, the host customer and the system owner, if different from the host customer;

(b) Any supporting documentation deemed necessary by the Commission; and

(c) Any documentation substantiating ownership of the equipment required by the utility.

Sec. 5. 1. The utility shall offer to a host customer an incentive in the form of a rebate. Any retail distribution customer of a participating electric utility may apply for an incentive. A host customer or a system owner may apply for the incentive. The project site must be located in the service territory of the electric utility.

2. The incentive payment levels shall automatically be reduced over the duration of the Program in three tiers based on the total amount of kilowatts of confirmed reservations. The duration of each tier will depend on when the utility reaches a total amount of kilowatts of confirmed reservations specified by the Commission. The amount of the rebate per kilowatt of capacity paid at each tier shall be determined by the Commission in the utility's annual plan filing.

3. The utility shall calculate its progress toward meeting the total number of kilowatts of confirmed reservations for a given tier using the number of kilowatts proposed for a project in the application. Projects are included in the calculation of total kilowatts in a tier once they are deemed eligible and have been issued a confirmed reservation. When the total amount of kilowatts allocated through the confirmed reservations reaches the capacity listed within any particular tier, any subsequent kilowatts allocated by the utility will be at the next tier.

4. If there are any kilowatts that remain unused and unaccounted for in any previous tier, due to events such as applicants dropping out of the process or reducing the size of their waterpower energy systems, those kilowatts will be added to the current tier under which the utility is issuing reservations and incentives. If kilowatts become unused in the current tier, those kilowatts will be returned to the current tier. Any reallocation of kilowatts from an earlier tier to a later tier due to drop-outs or waterpower energy system size reductions may take place as long as the kilowatts are reallocated within the same category of projects.

5. If a host customer installs a waterpower energy system that has greater kilowatt capacity than the amount of kilowatts in its confirmed reservation, the host customer shall receive the incentive level in its confirmed reservation for only the kilowatt capacity described in the confirmed reservation. Incentive dollars may be paid to the host customer for the excess kilowatt capacity, not to exceed a total of 200 kilowatts for the entire project, at the tier level that would apply to new applications.

6. The utility shall provide updates to its website as close as possible to real time and no less than weekly to indicate the total kilowatts available for incentives at each tier and in each category, including any kilowatts newly available due to reallocations.

Sec. 6. 1. *Once a project is completed, the applicant may request payment of the incentive amount listed on the confirmed reservation. A project is considered completed when it is completely installed, interconnected, permitted, paid for and capable of producing electricity in the manner and in the amounts for which it was designed.*

2. To receive the incentive, all Program requirements must be met and a complete claim form submitted before the expiration date listed for the project on its confirmed reservation.

3. *If a claim form is incomplete or is found to require clarification, the utility shall request the information necessary to process that application further. If the applicant has not submitted the requested information after 20 calendar days, the request for payment may be denied. If a claim form is not received by the expiration date for the project, or if the project is otherwise ineligible, the utility shall send a written notice stating the reasons the project is ineligible and the project will be rejected. If a project is rejected, the applicant or host customer may reapply for an incentive reservation but will be subject to the eligibility requirements, incentive levels and funding available at the time of reapplication.*

Sec. 7. 1. *The host customer or system owner may withdraw from the Program for any reason by providing written notice of withdrawal to the utility.*

2. *The host customer shall retain sole rights to the reservation, and may preserve the reservation by submitting a new application for a reservation along with the written notice of withdrawal from the Program to the utility. If all available funds are reserved for other projects, the host customer cannot increase the incentive amount in his original reservation.*

3. *If the host customer does not resubmit an application for a reservation at the time of withdrawal from the Program, the original application will be terminated in its entirety and any previously reserved incentive funding will be released. The host customer may apply for a new incentive reservation should the host customer still wish to participate in the Program.*

Sec. 8. *A participant who withdraws or does not complete the installation of his waterpower energy system within 12 months after the date on which the applicant is selected to participate in the program must reapply as a new applicant to be eligible for an incentive. The applicant must meet all program requirements that are in effect at the time of reapplication.*

Sec. 9. 1. *The host customer may act as the applicant or system owner, may designate the applicant or system owner to act on their behalf, and may change these parties at any time with prior written notice to the utility.*

2. The host customer shall be the holder of the incentive reservation, shall be a party to any agreement or contract with the utility, and shall retain sole rights to the incentive reservation.

3. If the host customer is not the system owner, then the system owner shall be a party to any agreement or contract with the utility.

Sec. 10. Section 14 of LCB File No. R173-07, which was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada and was filed with the Secretary of State on April 17, 2008, is hereby amended to read as follows:

~~Sec. 14. 1. [For a program year, a utility shall offer to a participant an incentive in the form of a rebate. For all of the watts up to and including the first 50 kilowatts of installed capacity of a waterpower energy system, the utility shall offer the lesser of:~~

~~—(a) The total dollar amount obtained by multiplying \$2.50 by the number of watts calculated pursuant to subsection 2; or~~

~~—(b) Sixty percent of the eligible installed system cost.]~~ *All 500 kilowatts of capacity to be installed by 2012 shall be available to program participants beginning on the date of adoption of sections 1 to 14, inclusive, of LCB Draft of Proposed Regulation R186-09, as proposed by the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada. The incentive award available for any application shall be limited to the first 200 kilowatts of installed capacity.*

2. The applicant must provide to the utility, within 30 days after applying for participation in the Waterpower Demonstration Program, a computation stamped by an engineer who is a

licensed professional engineer in the State of Nevada that provides the estimated hours of operation of the waterpower energy system and the estimated annual kilowatt-hour output of the proposed system. ~~[The estimated kilowatt-hour output must be divided by the greater of 1752 hours or the estimated hours of operation to calculate the number of watts for the purposes of paragraph (a) of subsection 1.]~~

3. If the incentives for a participant's first program year change between the time his application is approved and the time his waterpower energy system is completed, the participant must receive for that program year the incentives established at the time that his application was approved.

Sec. 11. Section 15 of LCB File No. R173-07, which was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada and was filed with the Secretary of State on April 17, 2008, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 15. Pursuant to NRS 701B.850, a utility shall file with the Commission an annual plan which must include the following:

1. A schedule describing major program milestones;
2. A budget with the following categories:
 - (a) Incentives;
 - (b) Contractor costs;
 - (c) Marketing costs;
 - (d) Training costs; and
 - (e) Utility administrative costs;
3. *A table providing proposed incentive levels for the upcoming program year and all subsequent program years, with calculations, supporting data and justifications for the*

proposed incentives which must decline as capacity goals for the Program and goals for each category are met and must reflect predicted energy savings;

4. A report on previous program years and the current program year which includes, without limitation, the most up-to-date versions of the following information for each program year:

- (a) The number of applications filed;
- (b) The number of participants enrolled in the Waterpower Demonstration Program and the number who have dropped out of the Waterpower Demonstration Program;
- (c) The annual budget and expenditures;
- (d) Any remaining financial obligations at the end of a program year;
- (e) A list of completed installations;
- (f) A summary of marketing results;
- (g) A description of training and educational activities; and
- (h) The results of participant surveys;

~~[4.]~~ 5. A description of the application process, including, without limitation:

- (a) The procedures to be followed by the utility and the applicant;
- (b) The criteria for selection of applicants for the Waterpower Demonstration Program, for the selection of applicants for the prioritized waiting list and for the promotion of applicants from the prioritized waiting list to the Waterpower Demonstration Program;
- (c) Copies of proposed applications and forms; *and*
- (d) ~~[A schedule for the application process with estimated dates for when the utility will forward recommendations for approval by the Task Force; and~~
- ~~—(e) A template for a recommendation document containing the list of applications proposed for approval for the Waterpower Demonstration Program and for the prioritized waiting list;]~~

The procedures for a participant to claim the incentive at completion of the project and a copy of the required claim form, which must include, at a minimum, the following data and attachments:

- (1) Name and address of the participant;*
- (2) Address at which the renewable energy system is located;*
- (3) The technical description of the main components of the system if different from the application;*
- (4) An assignment of the incentive payment, if applicable;*
- (5) Building permit signed off by governing jurisdiction to ensure that the system complies with all local codes;*
- (6) Voltage verification form to ensure that the meter socket is ready for meter set;*
- (7) Invoice for the renewable energy system to ensure that a properly licensed contractor performed the required work and that the system equipment is new and has not been previously installed; and*
- (8) Net metering agreement if not previously provided;*

- ~~{5.}~~ 6. The total of all incentives proposed to be paid for the program year;
- ~~{6.}~~ 7. A detailed advertising plan;
- ~~{7.}~~ 8. An education and training plan;
- ~~{8.}~~ 9. An inspection and verification plan for waterpower energy systems which verifies that an applicant or participant meets all applicable requirements; and
- ~~{9.}~~ 10. A survey for participants which includes, without limitation, questions on:
 - (a) The operational effectiveness of the participant's waterpower energy system, including, without limitation, the total kilowatt-hours of electricity generated per program year; and

(b) Any other information regarding the effectiveness of the Waterpower Demonstration Program.

Sec. 12. Section 16 of LCB File No. R173-07, which was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada and was filed with the Secretary of State on April 17, 2008, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 16. 1. A waterpower energy system must be located on property within the Nevada service territory of a participating utility.

2. An applicant must prove that his waterpower energy system has never been previously installed at another location.

~~[3. The waterpower energy system must be on property owned by the participant.]~~

Sec. 13. Section 19 of LCB File No. R173-07, which was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada and was filed with the Secretary of State on April 17, 2008, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 19. 1. A utility shall include with its annual deferred energy accounting adjustment application filed pursuant to subsection 9 of NRS 704.110 a revised Waterpower Demonstration Program rate. The rate must be calculated by adding the following two components:

(a) A prospective rate determined by dividing *not more than* the total costs in the Waterpower Demonstration Program annual plan by the projected kilowatt-hours for the program year; and

(b) A clearing rate determined by dividing the cumulative balance in the Waterpower Demonstration Program subaccount of FERC Account No. 182.3 at the end of the deferred energy test period as defined in NAC 704.063 by the test period kilowatt-hour sales.

2. The Commission will allow recovery of all prudent Waterpower Demonstration Program costs included in the subaccount of FERC Account 182.3 at the end of the test period as defined in NAC 704.063 and adjust the Waterpower Demonstration Program rate accordingly.

Sec. 14. Sections 8 and 17 of LCB File No. R173-07, which was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada and was filed with the Secretary of State on April 17, 2008, are hereby repealed.

TEXT OF REPEALED SECTIONS

Section 8 of LCB File No. R173-07:

Sec. 8. “Task Force” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 701B.770.

Section 17 of LCB File No. R173-07:

Sec. 17. The master application which a utility must submit to the Task Force must include the following:

1. The annual plan for the applicable program year, as modified and approved by the Commission;
2. The completed application for each applicant;

3. A list of the applications recommended for approval, indicating which are existing applications recommended for promotion from a previous prioritized waiting list and which are new applications; and

4. A prioritized waiting list.