

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: INTERSTATE POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY	DOCKET NO. AEP-2016-0130
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**ORDER GRANTING PRELIMINARY ELIGIBILITY AS A
RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITY**

(Issued January 5, 2017)

BACKGROUND

On October 31, 2016, Interstate Power and Light Company (IPL) filed with the Utilities Board (Board) an application for certification of 2.5 megawatts (MW) of a 4.0 MW solar energy conversion facility as an eligible facility pursuant to Iowa Code § 476C.3. On November 30 and December 20, 2016, IPL filed additional information requested by Board staff. The application has been docketed as Docket No. AEP-2016-0130.

In the application, IPL states it will be the sole owner of the facility. IPL states that all the renewable energy produced by the facility will be delivered to IPL's Seippel Substation and used to offset local energy consumption needs. IPL will be the entity that applies for renewable energy tax credits. IPL states it is a regulated utility providing electric and natural gas service organized pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 476.

IPL states the facility will be located in Dubuque County, Iowa, and is expected to be placed in service on or about August 31, 2017.

BOARD ANALYSIS

Iowa Code § 476C.3(1) provides that a producer or purchaser of renewable energy may apply to the Board for a written determination regarding whether a facility is an eligible renewable energy facility and this section requires certain information be filed in support of the application. The Board has adopted rules in 199 IAC 15.19(1) that establish additional filing requirements for applications for certification of renewable energy tax credits.

Iowa Code § 476C.1(6) defines an “eligible renewable energy facility” as a wind energy conversion facility, a biogas recovery facility, a biomass conversion facility, a methane gas recovery facility, a solar energy conversion facility, or a refuse conversion facility that is: (1) located in Iowa; (2) meets the ownership requirements in Iowa Code § 476C.1(6)(b)-(c); (3) was placed in service on or after July 1, 2005, and before January 1, 2018; (4) is not less than three-fourths MW if the energy produced is for on-site consumption by the producer; and (5) is a facility of no greater than 60 MW of nameplate generating capacity.

First, the IPL facility is a solar energy conversion facility that will be located in Dubuque County, Iowa, and meets the facility type and location requirements. IPL is a public utility subject to rate regulation pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 476, which meets the requirements of Iowa Code § 476C.1(6)(b). The IPL facility has a

nameplate generating capacity of 4.0 MW, however Iowa Code § 476C.1(6)(c) requires a facility to have one owner meeting the requirements of § 476C.1(6)(b) for each 2.5 MW of nameplate generating capacity. IPL is the only owner of the facility and can only be granted preliminary eligibility for 2.5 MW of capacity for the facility.

IPL states the facility will be placed in service on or about August 31, 2017, which meets the facility in service date requirement. IPL will be the producer of the energy and intends to deliver the energy to its Seippel Substation. The Board considers the use of the energy produced by the facility to be on-site consumption of the energy. The IPL facility has a nameplate generating capacity of 4.0 MW and is therefore large enough to qualify as an eligible renewable energy facility producing energy for on-site consumption pursuant to Iowa Code § 476C.1(6)(e).

Pursuant to the above discussion, the Board finds that IPL's application is complete and the facility meets the eligible renewable energy facility requirements in Iowa Code chapter 476C. Therefore, the Board will grant preliminary eligibility to IPL for its solar energy conversion facility. Pursuant to Iowa Code §§ 476C.1(6) and 476C.3(3)(a), and 199 IAC 15.19(4), the facility must be operational within 30 months following the Board's preliminary eligibility approval and prior to the statutory deadline in order to maintain preliminary eligibility for renewable energy tax credits.

ORDERING CLAUSES

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. The application filed on October 31, 2016, and supplemented on November 30 and December 20, 2016, by Interstate Power and Light Company is complete and the Interstate Power and Light Company solar energy conversion facility is preliminarily eligible for renewable energy tax credits pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 476C.
2. The Interstate Power and Light Company facility must be operational within 30 months from the date of this order and prior to the statutory deadline in Iowa Code § 476C.1(6)(d).

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Geri D. Huser

/s/ Elizabeth S. Jacobs

ATTEST:

/s/ Trisha M. Quijano
Executive Secretary, Designee

/s/ Nick Wagner

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 5th day of January 2017.