

State of Rhode Island
Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources

In re: Proposed 2022-A Allocation Plan – Distribution of RGGI Proceeds

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

Introduction

On July 7, 2022, a notice was posted on the websites of the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER) and the Rhode Island Office of Secretary of State announcing a public comment period to accept comments on the adoption of the proposed “2022-A Allocation Plan - Distribution of Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Auction Proceeds” (the Plan). The public hearing was held in Conference Room B, Second Floor of the Powers Building, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI on August 9, 2022, at 9:30 A.M. Notice of Public Hearing and Copies of the proposed Plan were made available on OER’s website at www.energy.ri.gov; by calling (401) 574-9117 weekdays from 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.; or by writing to Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources, One Capitol Hill, Providence, Rhode Island.

The public hearing was held on August 9, 2022, at 9:30 A.M. At the end of the public hearing, the public comment period was kept open for an additional ten (10) business days to allow for the submission of written comments. The public comment period closed on August 23, 2022.

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is a cooperative effort by Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic States to reduce carbon dioxide emissions through implementation of a multi-state cap-and-trade program with a market-based emissions trading system. RGGI is composed of individual CO₂ Budget Trading Programs in each of the eleven participating states. The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management promulgated regulations establishing a CO₂ Budget Trading Program that limits emissions of CO₂ from electric power plants, issues CO₂ allowances and establishes participation in regional CO₂ allowance auctions. The states participating in RGGI formed a non-profit corporation (RGGI, Inc.) to provide administrative and technical services to support the development and implementation of each participating state’s CO₂ Budget Trading Program.

Pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws §23-82, RGGI, Inc. (or another independent contractor) is authorized to receive, hold and sell CO₂ allowances for the long-term benefit of consumers. The statute also authorizes RGGI, Inc. to conduct the auctions or sales; collect the auction proceeds; and transfer such proceeds to OER. OER then disburses the proceeds of the auction or sale for purposes consistent with the goals of the RGGI program as set forth in the statute.

Public Hearing

A public hearing on the proposed Plan was held on August 9, 2022, at 9:30 A.M. The following people attended the public hearing:

Hank Webster, *Rhode Island Director & Senior Policy Advocate* – Acadia Center

Letters of Support

OER received letter(s) of support from the following individuals/organizations. Copies of the full letter(s) have been attached to this Decision and will be made available at www.energy.ri.gov/rggi/ or upon request by calling OER at (401) 574-9117.

- 1) Letter from Hank Webster, *Rhode Island Director & Senior Policy Advocate*, Acadia Center, dated August 8, 2022.
 - No comments were provided suggesting any changes be made to the proposed Plan.

Decision

It is the decision of the Office of Energy Resources to approve the 2022-A Allocation Plan – Distribution of RGGI Proceeds. The Plan is appended to this Decision.

Effective August 24, 2022.

Chris Kearns

Chris Kearns,
Interim Commissioner
Office of Energy Resources

Copy of the Decision sent via email to the following:
Hank Webster, Acadia Center