



Stephen Hoffman

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 8:56 PM
To: Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; IRRC; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; regcomments@pa.gov; ntroutman@pasen.gov; timothy.collins@pasenate.com; gking@pahousegop.com; siversen@pahouse.net
Cc: c-jflanaga@pa.gov
Subject: Comment received - Proposed Rulemaking: CO2 Budget Trading Program (#7-559)

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Re: eComment System

The Department of Environmental Protection has received the following comments on Proposed Rulemaking: CO2 Budget Trading Program (#7-559).

Commenter Information:

Joseph Bridy
(josephbridy@aol.com)
709 Morris Street
Philadelphia, PA 19148 US

Comments entered:

Dear DEP Regulatory Comments,

It is imperative that Pennsylvania addresses its large and historic contribution to fossil carbon pollution. My family and I urge the Department of Environmental Protection to finalize this proposed rulemaking to allow Pennsylvania to participate in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) beginning in January 2022. Pennsylvania has the fifth-dirtiest USA electric power sector and is responsible for roughly one-third of Pennsylvania's greenhouse gas pollution. As a globally significant polluter, Pennsylvania has a heightened responsibility to reduce its emissions and combat climate change. Linking with RGGI would be a monumental step in the right direction.

This CO2 Budget Trading Program funds must be invested in targeted efforts to eliminate air pollution, spur job creation, support working Pennsylvanians, and help boost the state's long-term economic recovery. Specifically, it is important that a portion of the proceeds be used to help workers and communities who will be affected by the ongoing and inevitable transition of the energy market away from coal and natural gas to cleaner sources of generation.

DEP must also provide a mechanism to adjust the starting allowance budget if actual emissions are lower than currently projected, as a cap that is set too high will affect the integrity of the

program.

The problems posed by abandoned coal refuse piles must be addressed, but the DEP should not support the waste coal set-aside. This account should be no larger than is necessary to cover actual emissions. Since 2018, four waste coal plants have been closed. These plants should be removed from the calculation of legacy emissions as they will not exist in 2022. We strongly support the strategic use set-aside account included in the proposed rule. As currently drafted, if waste coal-fired generation disappears in Pennsylvania, the waste coal set-aside account disappears and so, too, does the strategic use set-aside.

Please continue RGGI's record of success, invest in sustainable jobs in our transitioning energy sector, and reduce our carbon pollution. With Governor Tom Wolf's CO2 and Methane reduction goals set forth in Executive Order 2019-01, participating in RGGI is an essential policy step for Pennsylvania. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

Jessica Shirley
Director, Office of Policy
PA Department of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
P.O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063
Office: 717-783-8727
Fax: 717-783-8926
ecomment@pa.gov