



Testimony for CO2 Budget Trading Program Regulation
Monday, December 14, 2020, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
#56

On behalf of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 459, 408 Broad Street Johnstown, PA, 15906.

I want to thank the Environmental Quality Board for the opportunity to provide testimony. However, I believe stepping back and concentrating on getting control of a pandemic would be more of a priority than to force a public comment period for an executive order.

Like I have done in the past, today is no different. I am speaking in opposition of PA joining RGGI and the lack of legislative involvement and no consideration on the effect on workers and communities.

I am speaking on behalf of myself, a 30-year employee at the Keystone station and more importantly for all of the union members I represent as Business Manager of Local 459 of the IBEW

The workers I represent work 24/7, 365 days a year at the keystone, Conemaugh, Homer City, Seward and Shawville power plants. For decades this workforce has operated and maintained these plants to provide a source of electricity that is second to none for reliability. Obviously, that reliability, and the sacrifice of my union members is taken for granted by most.

Those in favor of RGGI should realize that Ohio and West Virginia will never join and Pennsylvania's generation is going to be made up to the west of us. Mostly by plants that are not as clean or as efficient as ours.

With the crushing impact that RGGI will have to thousands of family sustaining incomes, I am respectfully asking for the following details, prior to the finalized regulation concerning my members and the processes of how RGGI is going to provide for a just transition for the workforce when their jobs are eliminated.

1. How will this carbon tax financially benefit the plant workforce?
2. Newer energy technologies will lead to new jobs, but not necessarily in the same geographic locations and for the same people or at comparable wages and benefits. What has the state done to prepare to deal with job losses?
3. Does the Proposed Rulemaking document have any guidelines or a procedure that would provide for a seamless transition from plant closure to re-training and ultimately to a newly created job?

4. Could the committee please provided me with the results of any reports or studies that support the statement regarding the new job creation benefit in the Proposed Rulemaking document and specifically list what the jobs in demand will be?
5. How much priority was given toward preserving the livelihood of the plant workers and securing future employment for all those adversely affected due to RGGI?

Thank you,

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