



Stephen Hoffman

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 4:12 PM
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Cc: c-jflanagan@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:

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Comments entered:

As I tried to read through and comprehend the RGGI policy at hand, I have to say that I can see both sides of the story. But why is only one side of the story being told to the people of Pennsylvania? I envision that most people do not want to hear this because they feel that PA is destroying the air we breathe. The policy gives numbers from 2018 of CO2 emissions from fossil fueled power plants but does not give current numbers, which are reduced because of the closure of many power plants in the years between the report and now. Also, this report states how it will reduce the emissions of CO2 but does not entail what happens next. All the power that will be lost from our electric grid will need replaced at some point. Using Keystone Power Plant (a coal power plant) as an example, we will have to replace the 1700 megawatts of electricity it produces with either wind or solar power. To replace this much generation, hundreds if not thousands of solar panels will have to be erected. The same goes for windmills. Each windmill produces between 1 and 3 megawatts of power each so there will have to be 1700 to approximately 600 windmills to replace this one coal power plant. These sources are going to take up a vastly larger footprint than the current power plant will. Windmills, for instance, need windy areas, which in Pennsylvania are our mountainous regions. So now we are going to cut down more trees, destroy complete ecosystems, and displace the inhabitants of these areas. I do not know if people realize that this will also decrease the amount of plants and vegetation that produce what we all need to live, oxygen. These plants use the CO2 that we expel when we breathe, and the CO2 from fossil plants as food in a process called Photosynthesis, which makes

the oxygen we need to breathe. If we take away all the CO₂, plants will die, then without plants to make oxygen, we die. Ok, so let's say that this still happens anyway, the cost of building and maintaining these facilities will raise electric costs exuberantly! The people for this idea say no it won't, it will save us and create jobs. Yes, it may, but these both will be only temporary. Pennsylvania is full of many families and individuals that are stretched thin in budgets as it is, we can ill afford to raise their utility bills. Then there is the trickle-down effect we will see as producing goods and providing critical services will increase the cost to the consumer. These Pennsylvanians will then be forced to move from our great state to another, thereby reducing the tax base of our Commonwealth. So how will the Commonwealth supplement the downfall? You know the answer, raise taxes. It is a loose loose for the citizens of Pennsylvania. We are seeing a push for electric vehicles to replace the smog producing vehicles we drive. How will we ever recharge all these vehicles? I do not see a decreased need for future energy consumption, but a great increase.

Now let's talk about taxes. Our hard-earned tax dollars are being funneled into subsidies for windmills and solar panels. I will be told that I am wrong, but neither of these energy sources will ever pay for the cost that was put into them. I do not know the life span of solar panels, but windmills are 20 to 30 years. They are either left to rot and make the landscape ugly or torn down and thrown into landfills. Windmills are noisy, (yes, they do make sound, some very loud) and require fossil fuels to lubricate and cool them. So now all of these tax dollars are wasted as they are left to dot the hills and growing landfills of Pennsylvania. The time frame to build these replacement wind and solar farms have been and will be hampered by environmental groups and activists who will fight to save land, trees, animals and whatever else may inhabit the ecosystem in the proposed build areas. Maybe a better approach would be to take the subsidies being given and distribute them fairly to the whole energy sector. Subsidies could be earmarked to fossil power plants to help develop, maintain and use carbon capture technology to clean their emissions and make them more streamline. Do this would not only save our ecosystems from total collapse, but help our forests and earth thrive. We need not throw all of our preverbal eggs into one basket. There are so called experts out there stating that we do not have a lot of coal left, which is false. The fracking industry is being hampered to the point that the hundreds of years of natural gas that could cleanly supply our state are being underutilized. There is no perfect answer to this situation.

As we embark on this most heinous endeavor, let me remind many of you that we LIVE IN PENNSYLVANIA. We have been fortunate for several years with mild winters, but the harsh winters will return. We will again see very frigid, subzero temperatures. We will see heavy snow falls and very blustery days. Let me remind you what happens when these elements return, we will have home heat consumption rise. Natural gas will be directed to the consumer first, then power plants. This will reduce grid stability. Windmills can only safely operate in certain wind speeds. High winds will reduce grid stability. Snow will cover not only the solar panels, but also block out sunlight which in turn reduces grid stability. Base loaded coal power plants and Cogeneration plants are need as key components of our electric portfolio. Without them, we will literally be left in the dark, cold and lonely. This RGGI plant may work for other states but I feel it will not work for Pennsylvania. We have historically been an electric exporting state. With this farce of a plan enacted, Pennsylvania will have to import electricity, which will increase electric bills and harm our citizens. At what point will we realize that electricity does not just grow on trees. Some one and something has to make it, but it needs to be produced in a way that we, as people work with nature for a balance. The technology is there and up and coming to help curb CO₂ emission, let us not push our great Commonwealth into a spiral that hurts it. Let us embrace the need to coexist and work together. RGGI will kill the Pennsylvania economy, this I am sure of and if it happens, I will be one of the thousands of proud Pennsylvanians who will be forced to leave.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
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