



Stephen Hoffman

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2020 4:32 PM
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Cc: c-jflanaga@pa.gov
Subject: Comment received - Proposed Rulemaking: CO2 Budget Trading Program (#7-559)

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The enclosed comment was received as part of the following testimony:

Testimony name: Public Hearing 5 (1pm) - #7-559
Testimony date: 12/10/2020 12:00:00 AM
Testimony location: WebEx

Re: eComment System

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

Commenter Information:

Monica Beistline Block
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Comments entered:

RGGI Testimony

Good afternoon, my name is Monica Beistline Block (spelled BLOCK) and I live in Bechtelsville, Pennsylvania in Berks County. I am speaking to you today as a Pennsylvania resident.

Thank you to Governor Wolf and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for choosing to continue to hold these public hearings given the current health crisis. I appreciate having the opportunity to share my thoughts as a citizen of the Commonwealth. I'm here today to strongly voice my support for Pennsylvania's entry into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative or RGGI.

The 1st reason I support RGGI is for Health- Over 100,000 Americans die each year from air pollution, more than the number of people killed in car crashes per year. Emissions of particulate matter is densest in cities especially along the East Coast including Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where I work. The health impact of particulate matter is magnified by the pandemic that we're

currently dealing with. Those with pre-existing respiratory system conditions are even more impacted. The Governor and the DEP have the responsibility to the citizens of our wonderful state to take action to reduce pollution levels. Analysis shows that CO2 emissions from power plants in RGGI states have fallen 90% faster than in the rest of the country.

The 2nd reason I support RGGI is to reduce the effects climate change. Climate change is real. Our local Penn State University states that climate change is resulting in more severe weather, drastic temperature swings, and rising water levels. In Pennsylvania, over the past few years we've seen larger and more impactful floods and have recently gone through the warmest November on record. The more CO2 in the atmosphere, the worse our weather will become.

The 3rd reason I support RGGI is to increase energy market fairness. PA currently rewards the clean generators of power via the renewable energy portfolio standard, but excludes nuclear energy which produces the most electricity with the least carbon emissions. Nuclear energy is the nation's largest source of carbon-free power, which means that it is a foundational piece in the fight against climate change. In Pennsylvania, nuclear provides more than 90% of all the zero-carbon energy produced. When nuclear energy facilities are shutdown, they are replaced with carbon emissions producing fossil fueled power plants. Nuclear facilities only contribute 12 grams of CO2/KWh to the environment over their lifecycle as compared to 820 grams for Coal and 490 grams for Gas (IPCC, 2014). This past year, Three Mile Island, a safe, clean, and reliable electricity producing facility was shutdown resulting in an additional 3.2 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually. If the environmental benefits of carbon-free nuclear energy facilities are not accounted for, emissions in our state will continue to rise. If PA does not join RGGI, fossil plants will continue to pollute without penalty and emissions will continue to rise in PA. Market based approaches similar to RGGI have shown to be effective in reducing air pollution at the regional level.

And the last reason I support RGGI is for more responsible land use- As an environmentalist and avid hiker, I care about how the land in our beautiful commonwealth is utilized. Nuclear facilities only require 1,600 acres to produce 26 terawatt hours of energy annually while solar requires 150,000 acres and wind requires 250,000 acres to produce the same amount of power (Generation Atomic)

By supporting RGGI, I am also standing up for nuclear in Pennsylvania. RGGI means Pennsylvania's four nuclear power plants have an opportunity to compete on a more level playing field by requiring that polluting fossil fuel plants pay some of the social and health costs of carbon emissions they release into the air.

Nuclear energy is clean, safe, reliable and utilizes a small amount of land to provide large amounts of electricity affordably. This generates environmental and economic benefits for everyone. For these reasons and more, I ask the Department of Environmental Protection to move Pennsylvania forward on clean energy by entering our Commonwealth into RGGI.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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