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**RGGI Inc.**



**MARKET MONITOR REPORT  
FOR AUCTION 50**

**Prepared for:**

**RGGI, Inc., on behalf of the RGGI Participating States**

**Prepared By:**

**POTOMAC  
ECONOMICS**

December 4, 2020

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The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is the first mandatory market-based regulatory program in the U.S. to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. RGGI is a cooperative effort of New England and Mid-Atlantic states to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the power sector.

RGGI, Inc. is a non-profit corporation created to provide technical and administrative services to the states participating in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

## **MARKET MONITOR REPORT FOR AUCTION 50**

As the Market Monitor for the RGGI CO<sub>2</sub> allowance market, Potomac Economics monitors the conduct of market participants in the auctions and in the secondary market to identify indications of market manipulation or collusion. We also review the administration of the allowance auctions by Enel X. This report summarizes our findings regarding RGGI Auction 50, which was held on December 2, 2020.

We observed the auction as it occurred and have completed our review and analysis of its results. Based on our review of bids in the auction, we find no material evidence of collusion or manipulation by bidders.

Fifty-five bidders participated in the offering of CO<sub>2</sub> allowances. Bids were submitted to purchase 2.4 times the available supply of allowances, resulting in a clearing price of \$7.41 per ton. Compliance-Oriented Entities purchased 64 percent of the allowances in the offering. There was no indication of barriers to participation in the auction.

Based on our review of the administration of the market, we found that:

- The auction was administered in a fair and transparent manner in accordance with the noticed auction procedures and limitations.
- The auction results were consistent with the market rules and the bids received.
- Sensitive information was treated appropriately by the auction administrator.
- There were no indications of issues with the auction platform such as hardware or software problems, communications issues, or security breaches.

In summary, the results of our monitoring of RGGI Auction 50 raise no material concerns regarding the auction process, barriers to participation in the auction, or the competitiveness of the auction results. The appendix provides additional information about the market for RGGI CO<sub>2</sub> allowances and outcomes of the auction.

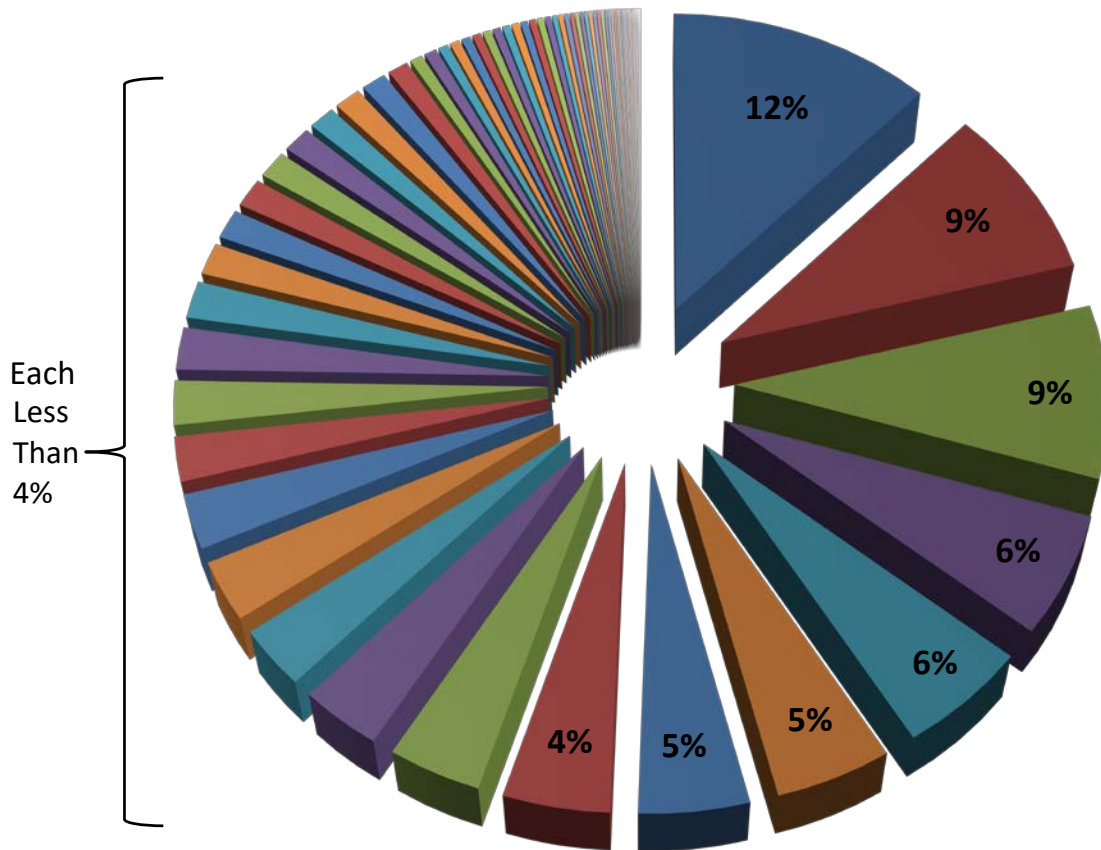
**APPENDIX**

**A. DISPERSION OF PROJECTED DEMAND**

*The wide dispersion of projected demand for RGGI allowances across compliance entities facilitates the competitive performance of the auction.*

The demand for CO<sub>2</sub> allowances is based on the requirement for each compliance entity in the RGGI footprint to obtain one CO<sub>2</sub> allowance for each short ton of CO<sub>2</sub> that it emits from the sale of electricity. The following figure shows the relative shares of projected demand for RGGI allowances by compliance entity. The largest compliance entity represents only 12 percent of the total projected demand for allowances. Nearly half of the projected demand is composed of entities that each account for less than 4 percent of the total demand. Participation by a large number of entities facilitates the competitive performance of the auction.

**Figure 1: Projected Demand for RGGI Allowances Shares by Compliance Entity**

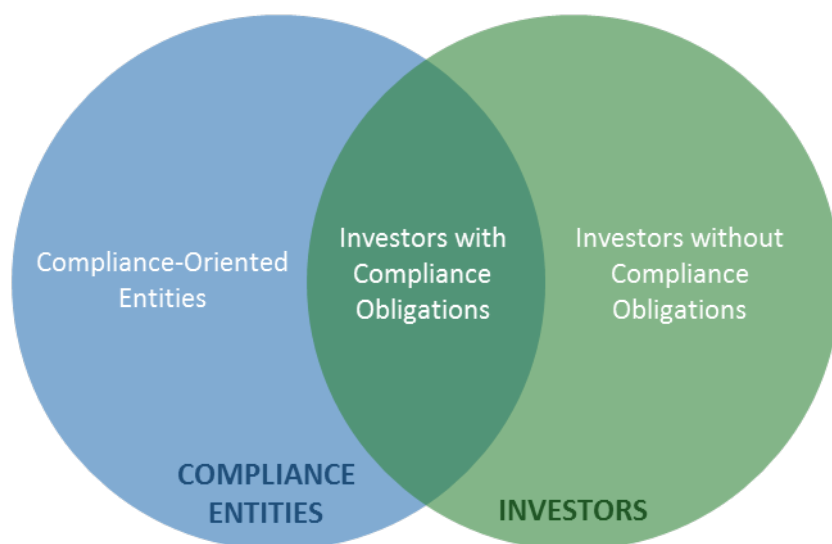


## B. SUMMARY OF PURCHASES OF ALLOWANCES IN AUCTION 50

*Awards were distributed across 49 bidders with five bidders purchasing one million tons or more and 19 bidders purchasing 200,000 tons or more.*

This report summarizes participation in Auction 50. Participation in the RGGI market involves many different firms with various interests in RGGI allowances. Some participate in order to satisfy compliance obligations, others have investment interests, and still others participate for both purposes. To more effectively track the activity of different participants, we use several classifications for participant firms. Figure 2 summarizes the relationship between these classifications.

**Figure 2: Classifications of Participant Firms in the RGGI Marketplace**



- *Compliance-Oriented Entities* are compliance entities that appear to acquire and hold allowances primarily to satisfy their compliance obligations.
- *Investors with Compliance Obligations* are firms that have compliance obligations but which hold a number of allowances that exceeds their estimated compliance obligations by a margin suggesting they also buy for re-sale or some other investment purpose. These firms often transfer significant quantities of allowances to unaffiliated firms.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The assessment of whether a compliance entity holds a number of allowances that exceeds its compliance obligations by a margin that suggests they are also buying for re-sale or some other investment purpose is based on: (a) the entity's forecasted share of the total compliance obligations for the entire RGGI footprint through 2026, (b) the total number of allowances in circulation, and (c) consideration of the pattern of the entity's allowance transfers to unaffiliated firms versus affiliated firms. Since the designation of a compliance entity as an investor is based on a review of its transactions and holdings, the designation of a particular firm may change over time as more information becomes available.

- *Investors without Compliance Obligations* are firms without any compliance obligations.

These three categories form the basis for two overlapping groups.

- *Compliance Entities* – All firms with compliance obligations<sup>2</sup> and their affiliates.<sup>3</sup> Combines the first and second of the above categories.
- *Investors* – All firms which are assessed to be purchasing for investment rather than compliance purposes. Combines the second and third of the above categories.

In Auction 50, Compliance Entities purchased 82 percent of the allowances sold. In the first 50 RGGI auctions, Compliance Entities purchased 74 percent of the allowances sold. In Auction 50, Compliance-Oriented Entities purchased 64 percent of the allowances sold.

After settlement of allowances sold in Auction 50:

- Fifty-four percent of the allowances in circulation will be held by Compliance-Oriented Entities.
- Sixty percent of the allowances in circulation are believed to be held for compliance purposes. The number of allowances that are believed to be held for compliance purposes includes 100 percent of the allowances held by Compliance-Oriented Entities and a portion of allowances held by Investors with Compliance Obligations.

The following table shows the quantity of allowances purchased by each bidder. The identity of each bidder is masked, and the bidders are ranked according to the amount of allowances awarded, from largest to smallest.

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<sup>2</sup> The Virginia governor has signed legislation providing for it to begin participating in RGGI beginning January 2021. Since this occurred, firms owning Budget Sources in Virginia are treated as compliance entities in our reports.

<sup>3</sup> Affiliates are firms that: (i) have a parent-subsidiary relationship with a compliance entity, (ii) are subsidiaries of a parent company that has a large interest in a compliance entity, (iii) have substantial control over the operation of a budget source and/or responsibility for acquiring RGGI allowances to satisfy its compliance obligations.

**Table 1: Quantity of Allowances Awarded by Bidder**

<b>Bidder</b>	<b>Number of Allowances Awarded</b>
Bidder 1	3,000,000
Bidder 2	2,050,000
Bidder 3	1,200,000
Bidder 4	1,134,000
Bidder 5	1,000,000
Bidder 6	950,000
Bidder 7	870,000
Bidder 8	600,000
Bidder 9	568,000
Bidder 10	444,000
Bidder 11	335,000
Bidder 12	335,000
Bidder 13	300,000
Bidder 14	289,495
Bidder 15	280,000
Bidder 16	270,000
Bidder 17	255,000
Bidder 18	225,000
Bidder 19	223,000
Bidder 20	188,000
Bidder 21	160,000
Bidder 22	150,000
Bidder 23	140,000
Bidder 24	130,000
Bidder 25	116,000
Bidder 26	100,000
Bidder 27	100,000
Bidder 28	80,000
Bidder 29	72,000
Bidder 30	65,000
Bidder 31	65,000
Bidder 32	61,000
Bidder 33	56,000
Bidder 34	53,000
Bidder 35	52,000
Bidder 36	50,000
Bidder 37	45,000
Bidder 38	42,000
Bidder 39	38,000
Bidder 40	29,000
Bidder 41	29,000
Bidder 42	25,000
Bidder 43	25,000
Bidder 44	12,000
Bidder 45	10,000
Bidder 46	8,000
Bidder 47	5,000
Bidder 48	2,000
Bidder 49	1,000

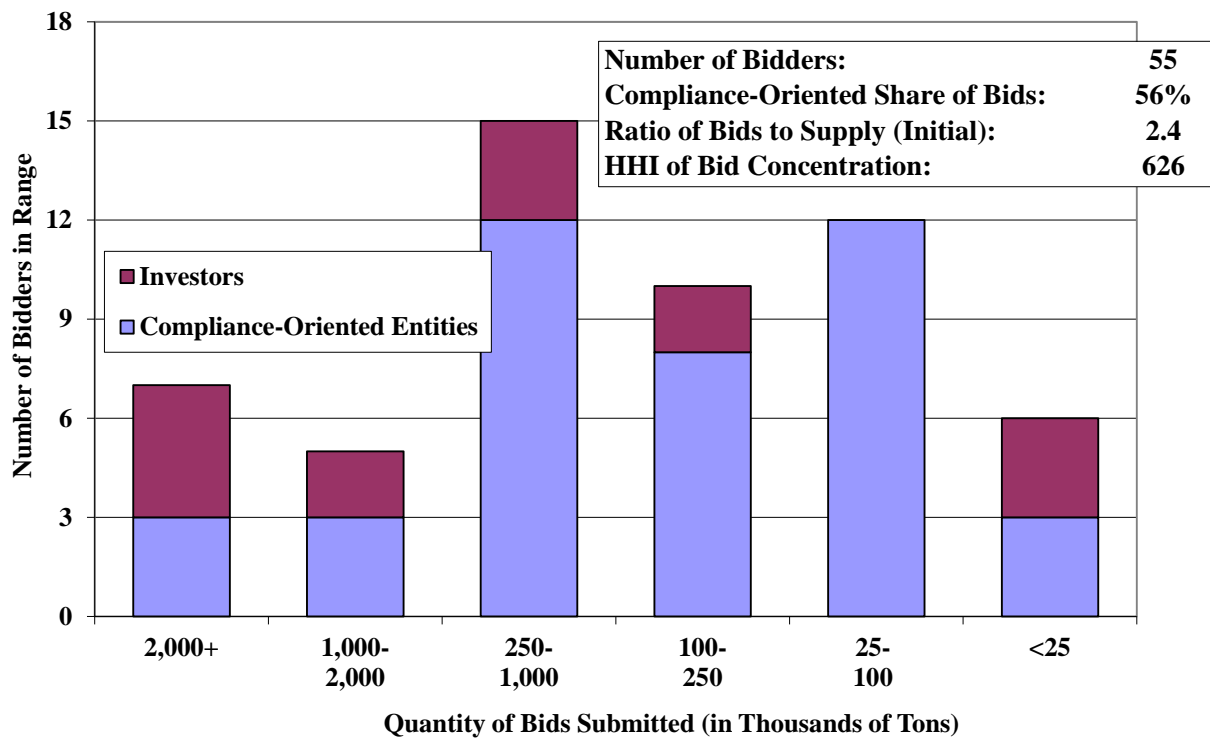
**C. DISPERSION OF BIDS IN AUCTION 50**

*Bids were submitted by 41 Compliance-Oriented Entities and 14 Investors. In our review of the bids and the qualification process, we found no material evidence of anti-competitive conduct or inappropriate barriers to participation.*

The following figure summarizes the quantity of allowances for which bids were submitted by each bidder. Six Compliance-Oriented Entities and six Investors submitted bids for a large quantity of allowances (i.e., at least 1 million tons). Overall, Compliance-Oriented Entities accounted for 56 percent of the quantity of allowances for which bids were submitted. The quantity of allowances for which bids were submitted was 2.4 times the Initial Offering. In the previous auction, the quantity of allowances for which bids were submitted was 2.6 times the Initial Offering.

The bid quantities were widely distributed among the 55 bidders. The concentration of bids, using the Herfindahl-Hirschman Index (“HHI”), was relatively low at 626. The HHI is a standard measure of concentration calculated by squaring each entity’s percent share and then summing the squares across all entities (i.e., the index ranges from 0 to 10,000).

**Figure 3: Quantity of Bids Submitted by Entity  
By Type of Entity and Quantity Bid**





**D. SUMMARY OF BID PRICES IN AUCTION 50**

*Bids were submitted across a wide range of prices in the auction and the clearing price of \$7.41 was relatively consistent with average bid prices submitted.*

The following table reports several statistics regarding the bid prices for bids submitted in Auction 50. The median and mean bid prices are weighted by the quantity of each bid.

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<b>Bid Prices:</b>	
<b>Minimum</b>	<b>\$2.32</b>
<b>Maximum</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>
<b>Average (Median)</b>	<b>\$7.30</b>
<b>Average (Mean)</b>	<b>\$7.11</b>
<b>Clearing Price:</b>	<b>\$7.41</b>

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**E. NAMES OF POTENTIAL BIDDERS IN AUCTION 50**

In accordance with Sections 2.8 and 3 of the Auction Notice for CO<sub>2</sub> Allowance Auction 50, the Participating States are releasing the names of Potential Bidders in Auction 50. The states defined potential bidders as: “Each Applicant that has been qualified and submitted a complete *Intent to Bid.*” The list of 64 Potential Bidders is as follows:

Air to Earth LLC	Kendall Green Energy LLC
Appalachian Power Company	Kleen Energy Systems, LLC
Astoria Energy, LLC	KMC Thermo, LLC
Blue Delta Energy, LLC	Koch Supply & Trading, LP
BP Products North America Inc.	Macquarie Energy, LLC
Burlington Electric Department	Massachusetts Muni. Wholesale Elec. Co.
Caithness Long Island, LLC	Merrill Lynch Commodities, Inc.
Calpine Energy Services, LP	Morgan Stanley Capital Group, Inc.
Carbon Lighthouse Association	National Grid Generation LLC dba National Grid
Castleton Commodities Merchant Trading, LP	Nautilus Power, LLC
City of Vineland	Newark Energy Center
Clay Hills Management Ltd.	NextEra Energy Marketing, LLC
Consolidated Edison Comp. of NY, Inc.	NRG Power Marketing LLC
Cooler, Inc.	Ocean State Power, LLC
CPV Maryland, LLC	Old Dominion Electric Cooperative
CPV Shore, LLC	PCAF I LLC
CPV Towantic, LLC	Pinelawn Power, LLC
CPV Valley, LLC	Pixelle Androscoggin LLC
Cricket Valley Energy Center, LLC	Power Authority of the State of New York
Delaware City Refining Company, LLC	RBC
Dighton Power, LLC	Revere Power, LLC
DTE Energy Trading, Inc.	Rhode Island State Energy Center, LP
Dynegy Marketing and Trade, LLC	Selkirk Cogen Partners, LP
Edgewood Energy, LLC	Shell Energy North America (US), LP
Elbow River Marketing LTD.	Shoreham Energy, LLC
Empire Generating Co., LLC	Statkraft US, LLC
Equus Power I, LP	Tenaska Power Services Co.
Exelon Generation Company, LLC	Tenaska, Inc.
Footprint Power Salem Harbor Development LP	Village of Freeport
Indeck-Corinth Limited Partnership	Virginia Electric and Power Company
Jamestown Board of Public Utilities	Vitol Inc.
Kcarbon Holdings LLC	Wallingford Energy, LLC