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Friday, December 9, 2022

# CO<sub>2</sub> Allowances Sold for \$12.99 in 58<sup>th</sup> RGGI Auction

Final Auction of 2022 Raises Over \$288 Million for Reinvestment

NEW YORK — The participating states in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), the nation's first market-based regulatory effort to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) pollution, today announced the results of their  $58^{th}$  auction of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) allowances.

22,233,203 CO<sub>2</sub> allowances were sold at the auction at a clearing price of \$12.99. Bids for the CO<sub>2</sub> allowances ranged from \$2.44 to \$22.00 per allowance. Additional details are available in the <u>Market Monitor Report for Auction 58</u>, which is appended.

The auction generated \$288.8 million for states to reinvest in strategic programs, including energy efficiency, renewable energy, direct bill assistance, and GHG abatement programs.

11.61 million cost containment reserve (CCR) allowances were also available for sale. The CCR is a fixed additional supply of allowances that are made available for sale if an auction's interim clearing price exceeds a certain price level (\$13.91 in 2022). No CCR allowances were sold in Auction 58.

In addition, 10.96 million emissions containment reserve (ECR) allowances were available for withholding. The ECR is a designated quantity of allowances to be withheld if an auction's interim clearing price is below an established price level (\$6.42 in 2022). No ECR allowances were withheld in Auction 58.

"The completion of the 58<sup>th</sup> RGGI auction marks another successful year of operations for all the participating RGGI states," said Katie Dykes, Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection and Chair of the RGGI, Inc. Board of Directors. "With over \$5.8 billion raised to date for investment in clean energy, energy efficiency, and direct consumer benefit programs, we are proud of what the RGGI states have accomplished together and look forward to the continued success of this collaborative effort."

"The RGGI states continue to demonstrate that bipartisan collaboration matters, and well-run carbon markets can deliver tangible environmental, social, and health benefits," said Martin Suuberg, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and Vice Chair of the RGGI, Inc. Board of Directors. "RGGI's market-based approach delivers cost-effective emissions reductions, while strengthening the regional economy by generating investments into communities across the participating states."

Auction 58 Results At-A-Glance			
Auction Date	December 7, 2022		
Allowances Initially Offered for Sale	22,233,203		
Total Allowances Sold	22,233,203		
Ratio of Bids to Supply	2.4x		
Clearing Price	\$12.99		
Reserve Price	\$2.44		
Proceeds from Auction 58	\$288,809,306.97		
Total Cumulative Proceeds (All Auctions)	\$5,895,274,757.14		
Number of Bidders in Auction 58	67		
Percent of Allowances Purchased by Compliance- Oriented Entities in Auction 58	66%		
Percent of Allowances Purchased by Compliance Entities in Auction 58	71%		
Percent of Allowances Purchased by Compliance Entities in Auctions 1 - 58	73%		

More auction data is also available at: <u>https://www.rggi.org/auctions/auction-results</u>. Market monitor reports are available at: <u>https://www.rggi.org/auctions/market-monitor-reports</u>. To receive announcements relating to future auctions and other RGGI news, please join the RGGI, Inc. mailing list at <u>http://eepurl.com/h2ICM</u>.

### About the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)

The Eastern states participating in the fifth RGGI control period have implemented the first mandatory market-based regulatory program in the U.S. to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

RGGI is composed of individual  $CO_2$  budget trading programs in each state, based on each state's independent legal authority. A  $CO_2$  allowance represents a limited authorization to emit one short ton of  $CO_2$ , as issued by a respective state. A regulated power plant must provide  $CO_2$  allowances equal to its emissions for each three-year control period. RGGI's fifth control period began on January 1, 2021 and extends through December 31, 2023. For more information visit <u>www.rggi.org</u>.

### About the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, Inc.

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, Inc. (RGGI, Inc.) was created to provide technical and administrative services to the states participating in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. RGGI, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. For more information, visit: <u>www.rggi.org/rggi-inc/contact</u>.



# MARKET MONITOR REPORT FOR AUCTION 58

**Prepared for:** 

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

**Prepared By:** 



December 9, 2022



This report was prepared by Potomac Economics (the contractor) in the course of performing work contracted for and sponsored by RGGI, Inc. on behalf of states participating in RGGI (Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania,<sup>1</sup> Rhode Island, Vermont, and Virginia). The opinions expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect those of RGGI, Inc. or any of the states participating in RGGI, and reference to any specific product, service, process, or method does not constitute an implied or expressed recommendation or endorsement of it. Further, RGGI, Inc., the states participating in RGGI, and the contractor make no warranties or representations, expressed or implied, as to the fitness for particular purpose or merchantability of any product, apparatus, or service, or the usefulness, completeness, or accuracy of any processes, methods, or other information contained, described, disclosed, or referred to in this report. RGGI, Inc., the states participating in RGGI, and the contractor make no representation that the use of any product, apparatus, process, method, or other information will not infringe privately owned rights and will assume no liability for any loss, injury, or damage resulting from, or occurring in connection with, the use of information contained, described, disclosed, disclosed, or referred to in this report.

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is the first mandatory market-based regulatory initiative 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> While technically a RGGI participating state, Pennsylvania is currently under order from the state's Commonwealth Court prohibiting it from actively participating in RGGI & RGGI Inc. related activities. Final adjudication of these matters is not expected until sometime in 2023.



# MARKET MONITOR REPORT FOR AUCTION 58

As the Market Monitor for the RGGI  $CO_2$  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 58, which was held on December 7, 2022.

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.

Sixty-seven bidders participated in the auction for CO<sub>2</sub> allowances. Bids were submitted to purchase 2.4 times the initial offering of approximately 22.2 million allowances, resulting in a clearing price of \$12.99 per ton in the auction. The Cost Containment Reserve ("CRR") Trigger Price is \$13.91 per ton for auctions held in 2022, so no CCR allowances were sold in the auction. Compliance-Oriented Entities purchased 66 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 58 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.

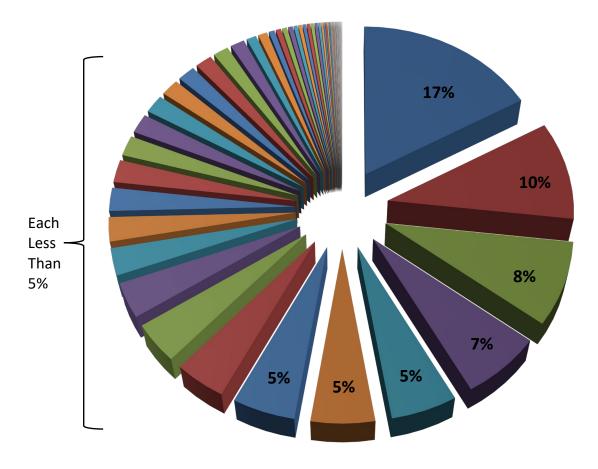


# APPENDIX

### 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  $CO_2$  allowances is based on the requirement for each compliance entity in the RGGI footprint to obtain one  $CO_2$  allowance for each short ton of  $CO_2$  that it emits from the sale of electricity. The following figure shows the relative shares of projected demand for RGGI allowances by compliance entity in the fifth control period. The largest compliance entity represents 17 percent of the total projected demand for allowances. Nearly half of the projected demand is composed of entities that each account for less than 5 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 58

Awards were distributed across 60 bidders with seven bidders purchasing one million tons or more and 24 bidders purchasing 200,000 tons or more.

This report summarizes participation in Auction 58. 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.

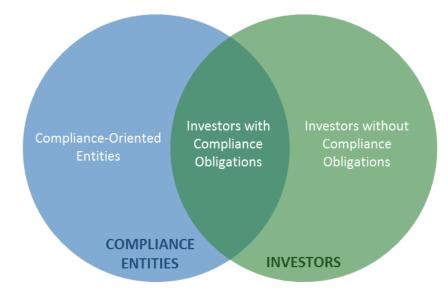


Figure 2: Classifications of Participant Firms in the RGGI Marketplace

- *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>2</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</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 in the 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 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 58, Compliance Entities purchased 71 percent of the allowances sold. In the first 58 RGGI auctions, Compliance Entities purchased 73 percent of the allowances sold. In Auction 58, Compliance-Oriented Entities purchased 66 percent of the allowances sold.

After settlement of allowances sold in Auction 58:

- Fifty-three percent of the allowances in circulation will be held by Compliance-Oriented Entities.
- Fifty-eight 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;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.

Bidder	Number of Allowances Awarded	Bidder	Number of Allowances Awarded
Bidder 1	4,863,203	Bidder 31	79,000
Bidder 2	2,500,000	Bidder 32	78,000
Bidder 3	1,250,000	Bidder 33	77,000
Bidder 4	1,240,000	Bidder 34	75,000
Bidder 5	1,072,000	Bidder 35	75,000
Bidder 6	1,050,000	Bidder 36	70,000
Bidder 7	1,000,000	Bidder 37	55,000
Bidder 8	900,000	Bidder 38	50,000
Bidder 9	800,000	Bidder 39	50,000
Bidder 10	750,000	Bidder 40	45,000
Bidder 11	750,000	Bidder 41	44,000
Bidder 12	607,000	Bidder 42	37,000
Bidder 13	600,000	Bidder 43	30,000
Bidder 14	464,000	Bidder 44	25,000
Bidder 15	375,000	Bidder 45	22,000
Bidder 16	350,000	Bidder 46	18,000
Bidder 17	310,000	Bidder 47	16,000
Bidder 18	308,000	Bidder 48	15,000
Bidder 19	301,000	Bidder 49	15,000
Bidder 20	276,000	Bidder 50	10,000
Bidder 21	210,000	Bidder 51	7,000
Bidder 22	200,000	Bidder 52	6,000
Bidder 23	200,000	Bidder 53	6,000
Bidder 24	200,000	Bidder 54	4,000
Bidder 25	150,000	Bidder 55	2,000
Bidder 26	150,000	Bidder 56	2,000
Bidder 27	146,000	Bidder 57	1,000
Bidder 28	114,000	Bidder 58	1,000
Bidder 29	100,000	Bidder 59	1,000
Bidder 30	80,000	Bidder 60	1,000

# Table 1: Quantity of Allowances Awarded by Bidder

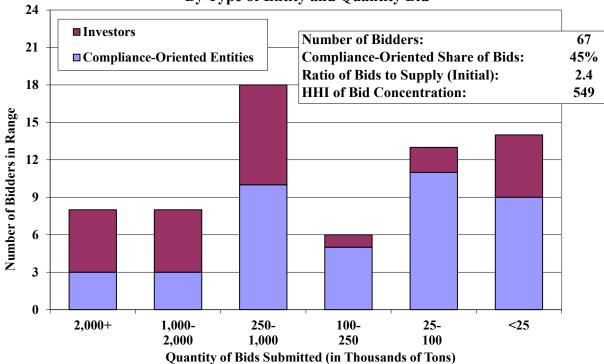


## C. DISPERSION OF BIDS IN AUCTION 58

Bids were submitted by 41 Compliance-Oriented Entities and 26 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 ten Investors submitted bids for a large quantity of allowances (i.e., at least 1 million tons). Overall, Compliance-Oriented Entities accounted for 45 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 67 bidders. The concentration of bids, using the Herfindahl-Hirschman Index ("HHI"), was relatively low at 549. 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 58

Bids were submitted across a wide range of prices in the auction and the clearing price of \$12.99 was relatively consistent with average bid prices submitted.

The following table reports several statistics regarding the bid prices for bids submitted in Auction 58. The median and mean bid prices are weighted by the quantity of each bid.

Bid Prices:	
Minimum	\$2.44
Maximum	\$22.00
Average (Median)	\$12.80
Average (Mean)	\$11.58
<b>Clearing Price:</b>	\$12.99



### E. NAMES OF POTENTIAL BIDDERS IN AUCTION 58

In accordance with Sections 2.8 and 3 of the Auction Notice for CO<sub>2</sub> Allowance Auction 58, the Participating States are releasing the names of Potential Bidders in Auction 58. The states defined potential bidders as: "Each Applicant that has been qualified and submitted a complete *Intent to Bid.*" The list of 80 Potential Bidders is as follows:

Appalachian Power Company Astoria Energy, LLC **Benjamin Brooks** Birchwood Power Partners, L.P BP Products North America Inc. **Buchanan** Generation Caithness Long Island, LLC Calpine Energy Services, LP Carbon Lighthouse Association Citadel Energy Marketing LLC Clear Sky Enhanced Inflation Carbon Master Fund LP Coloma Strategies LLC Commonwealth Chesapeake Company, LLC Consolidated Edison Comp. of NY, Inc. Constellation Energy Generation, LLC Cooler, Inc. CPV Maryland, LLC CPV Shore, LLC CPV Towantic, LLC CPV Valley, LLC Cricket Valley Energy Center, LLC David Luke Oates Delaware City Refining Company, LLC DTE Energy Trading, Inc. Dynegy Marketing and Trade, LLC East Coast Environmental, LLC Edgewood Energy, LLC EFS Parlin Holdings, LLC Elbow River Marketing LTD. Element Markets Emissions, LLC Empire Generating Co., LLC Energy Center Dover Equus Power I, LP Footprint Power Salem Harbor Development LP Gen IV Investment Opportunities, LLC Hartree Partners, LP Hawkeye Energy Greenport Helix Ravenswood Energy, LLC Indeck-Corinth Limited Partnership Indeck-Olean Limited Partnership

J. Aron & Company Jamestown Board of Public Utilities Kcarbon Holdings LLC Kendall Green Energy LLC Kleen Energy Systems, LLC KMC Thermo, LLC Koch Supply & Trading, LP Lucid Clarity Master Fund LP Macquarie Energy, LLC Mercuria Energy America, LLC Morgan Stanley Capital Group, Inc. MV Global Carbon Fund LP National Grid Generation LLC dba National Grid Nautilus Power, LLC New Athens Generating Company, LLC Newark Energy Center NextEra Energy Marketing, LLC NRG Power Marketing LLC Ocean State Power, LLC Old Dominion Electric Cooperative Pegasus Development Corporation Pinelawn Power, LLC Pixelle Androscoggin LLC Power Authority of the State of New York RBC Selkirk Cogen Partners, LP Shell Energy North America (US), LP Shoreham Energy, LLC Statkraft US, LLC STX Commodities LLC **Taunton Municipal Lighting Plant** Tenaska Pennsylvania Partners, LLC Tenaska, Inc. Trafigura Trading LLC Village of Freeport Virginia Electric and Power Company Vitol Inc. Wallingford Energy, LLC William MacLeod World Carbon Fund