

Update on the Status of RGGI

(April 6, 2005)

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) continues with strong participation from the original Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States that expressed interest in the initiative in July 2003. Much has been accomplished, including:

- **Regional Staff Working Group Efforts.** Since September 2003, representatives from the region's environmental and energy regulatory agencies have been meeting monthly to discuss, research and analyze information and potential program design recommendations.
- **Technical Groundwork.** A great deal of technical groundwork has been accomplished:
 - Comprehensive emissions data have been gathered from 10 states and the District of Columbia, comprising over 750 electric generation units.
 - A detailed and complex set of energy and macroeconomic modeling analyses have been conducted with extensive stakeholder input (modeling work is ongoing).
 - Extensive research and consultation with experts in the area, including representatives of the independent system operators, environmental think tanks, and respected academics.
- **Stakeholder Process.** An extensive stakeholder process was launched in January of 2004, including:
 - Seven regional meetings of a formal stakeholder group, consisting of representatives of key stakeholders from the environmental, energy, and consumer sectors throughout the RGGI region.
 - Dozens of informal meetings have taken place across the region with representatives of various stakeholders.
 - Several states have carried out individual state stakeholder processes to discuss RGGI issues.
 - This website has served as a central repository for information on the effort.
- **Regional Agency Heads' Meetings.** Periodically since September 2003, the agency heads from the environmental and energy regulatory agencies have convened to discuss major policy considerations and oversee the work of their staffs. The next meeting of the RGGI agency heads is planned for the last week in April, when the States will identify areas of agreement and issues requiring further analysis and development prior to final agreement on program design. RGGI agency heads will also discuss next steps and a timetable for reaching agreement on a draft model rule.

Though the program design effort will not be complete in April 2005, the States continue to actively discuss the issues involved in designing a regional cap-and-trade program for carbon dioxide. The States are working diligently toward resolution of their ongoing discussions.