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For Immediate Release

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RGGI States Welcome New Jersey as Its CO₂ Regulation Is Finalized

After an extensive public process, today New Jersey [finalized a regulation](#) to establish a market-based program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The RGGI states have worked collaboratively with New Jersey throughout this process and applaud the completion of New Jersey's regulation. The RGGI states find that New Jersey's final rule is consistent with the RGGI Model Rule and with existing state regulations, and that New Jersey's starting CO₂ allowance budget and emissions reduction trajectory demonstrate comparable stringency with the existing RGGI program. Accordingly, the RGGI states are pleased to welcome New Jersey as a participant in our successful regional initiative starting January 1, 2020.

As with all other RGGI participating states, New Jersey will take part in the regional quarterly auctions, originating fully fungible CO₂ allowances that may be used for compliance in any RGGI participating state. As an equal participant in the RGGI program, New Jersey will be a part of the RGGI program review process, a long-standing commitment to study potential improvements to RGGI's design and propose changes to the program on a consensus basis.

RGGI, Inc. supports the RGGI states in implementing elements of the program and has a Board of Directors made up of two Agency Heads from each RGGI participating state. The RGGI states look forward to welcoming Commissioner Catherine R. McCabe of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and President Joseph L. Fiordaliso of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities to the RGGI, Inc. Board of Directors on behalf of New Jersey.

The RGGI states have experienced a range of benefits arising from the past decade of program implementation, including reduced emissions, public health improvements, and economic benefits. The results have well exceeded many predictions from the program's early years. Power sector emissions in the RGGI states have declined over 50 percent relative to 2005. At the same time, reports have found net benefits to the RGGI states' economies on the order of \$4 billion, and health benefits including asthma attacks avoided and lives saved. With New Jersey as part of this regional effort, the RGGI states hope and expect that the results achieved through this program will only increase.

"We congratulate and salute New Jersey on this historic step. The effects of climate change and pollution operate across state lines, so it is important for states to work together as a region to take on these issues and move towards a cleaner power sector," said Ben Grumbles, Secretary of the Maryland Department of the Environment and Chair of the RGGI, Inc. Board of Directors. "New Jersey has communicated frequently with the RGGI states in the design of the final rule. We thank and applaud them for their efforts and very much look forward to working together as RGGI participating states."

"Not only is our coastline at risk from global warming, so are our densely populated urban areas and communities that are susceptible to river and stream flooding," said Commissioner McCabe. "While New Jersey has one of the cleanest electric generation portfolios in the country, resuming participation

in RGGI provides the impetus for even further carbon dioxide reduction and is an important component of our comprehensive plan to address climate change.”

“Mitigating the impacts of climate change is one of the most significant challenges we face,” said President Fiordaliso. “Rejoining RGGI is a crucial step toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions and achieving our goal of 100 percent clean energy by 2050. I am proud to serve in an administration that places such a high priority on creating a safer, healthier, more economically sound future for our children and grandchildren.”

About the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)

The New England and Mid-Atlantic states participating in the fourth RGGI control period (Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont) have implemented the first mandatory market-based regulatory program in the U.S. to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The 2019 RGGI cap is 80.2 million short tons. The RGGI states also include interim adjustments to the RGGI cap to account for banked CO₂ allowances. The 2019 RGGI adjusted cap is 58.3 million short tons.

RGGI is composed of individual CO₂ budget trading programs in each state, based on each state’s independent legal authority. A CO₂ allowance represents a limited authorization to emit one short ton of CO₂, as issued by a respective state. A regulated power plant must hold CO₂ allowances equal to its emissions for each three-year control period. RGGI’s fourth control period began on January 1, 2018 and extends through December 31, 2020. For more information visit www.rggi.org.

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: www.rggi.org/rggi.