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Friday, September 6, 2024

## **CO<sub>2</sub> Allowances Sold for \$25.75 in 65<sup>th</sup> RGGI Auction**

*Third Auction of 2024 raises over \$410 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 65<sup>th</sup> auction of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) allowances.

15,943,608 CO<sub>2</sub> allowances were sold at the auction at a clearing price of \$25.75. Bids for the CO<sub>2</sub> allowances ranged from \$2.56 to \$50.00 per allowance. Additional details are available in the [Market Monitor Report for Auction 65](#), which is appended.

The auction generated \$410.5 million for states to reinvest in strategic programs, including energy efficiency, renewable energy, direct bill assistance, beneficial electrification, and GHG abatement programs.

No cost containment reserve (CCR) allowances were available for sale during Auction 65. 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 (\$15.92 in 2024). During the 63<sup>rd</sup> RGGI auction, the full complement of 8.42 million 2024 CCR allowances was released. Therefore, no additional CCR allowances will be available for sale during the remaining 2024 auctions.

7.81 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 (\$7.35 in 2024). No ECR allowances were withheld in Auction 65.

"For over fifteen years, RGGI has helped drive emissions reductions while generating funds which are reinvested in communities across the region," said Katie Dykes, Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection and Chair of the RGGI, Inc. Board of Directors. "As of 2022, investments of RGGI funds have delivered \$17 billion in energy bill savings and helped avoid 60 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, according to the latest Investment of RGGI Proceeds report."

"The RGGI states have shown that bipartisan, multi-state cooperation can create lasting, effective environmental policy," said Serena McIlwain, Secretary of the Maryland Department of the Environment and Vice Chair of the RGGI, Inc. Board of Directors. "RGGI supports our economy, protects our environment, and brings savings to our local communities."

Auction 65 Results At-A-Glance	
Auction Date	September 4, 2024
Allowances Initially Offered for Sale	15,943,608
Total Allowances Sold	15,943,608
Ratio of Bids to Supply	2.7x
Clearing Price	\$25.75
Reserve Price	\$2.56
Proceeds from Auction 65	\$410,547,906.00
Total Cumulative Proceeds (All Auctions)	\$8,296,716,834.05
Number of Bidders in Auction 65	60
Percent of Allowances Purchased by Compliance-Oriented Entities in Auction 65	66%
Percent of Allowances Purchased by Compliance Entities in Auction 65	75%
Percent of Allowances Purchased by Compliance Entities in Auctions 1 – 65	72%

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

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

The Eastern states participating in the sixth 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<sub>2</sub> budget trading programs in each state, based on each state's independent legal authority. A CO<sub>2</sub> allowance represents a limited authorization to emit one short ton of CO<sub>2</sub>, as issued by a respective state. A regulated power plant must provide CO<sub>2</sub> allowances equal to its emissions for each three-year control period. RGGI's sixth control period began on January 1, 2024 and extends through December 31, 2026. For more information visit [www.rggi.org](http://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-inc/contact](http://www.rggi.org/rggi-inc/contact).

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**RGGI Inc.**



**MARKET MONITOR REPORT  
FOR AUCTION 65**

**Prepared for:**

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

**Prepared By:**

**POTOMAC  
ECONOMICS**

September 6, 2024

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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, and Vermont). 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, 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.

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<sup>1</sup> While technically a RGGI participating state, Pennsylvania is currently awaiting adjudication from the state's Supreme Court as to whether it will be allowed to actively participate in RGGI & RGGI Inc. related activities.

## **MARKET MONITOR REPORT FOR AUCTION 65**

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 65, which was held on September 4, 2024.

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 bidders participated in the auction for CO<sub>2</sub> allowances. Bids were submitted to purchase 2.7 times the initial offering of approximately 15.9 million allowances, resulting in a clearing price of \$25.75 per ton in the auction. Although the quantity for which bids were submitted above the CCR Trigger Price of \$15.92 per ton exceeded the initial offering, the Cost Containment Reserve (“CRR”) for 2024 was fully released in Auction 63, so no CCR allowances were sold in this auction. Compliance-Oriented Entities purchased 66 percent of the allowances in this 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 was no indication 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 65 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.

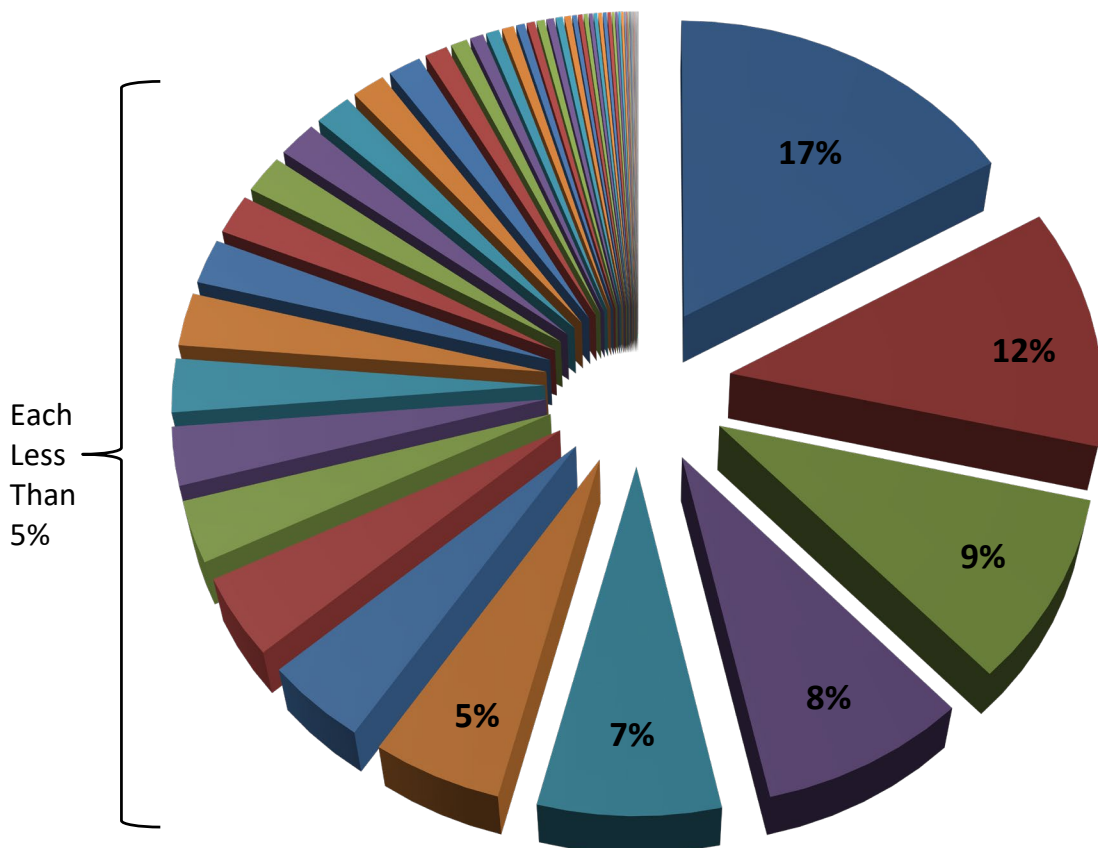
APPENDIX

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 in the sixth 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**

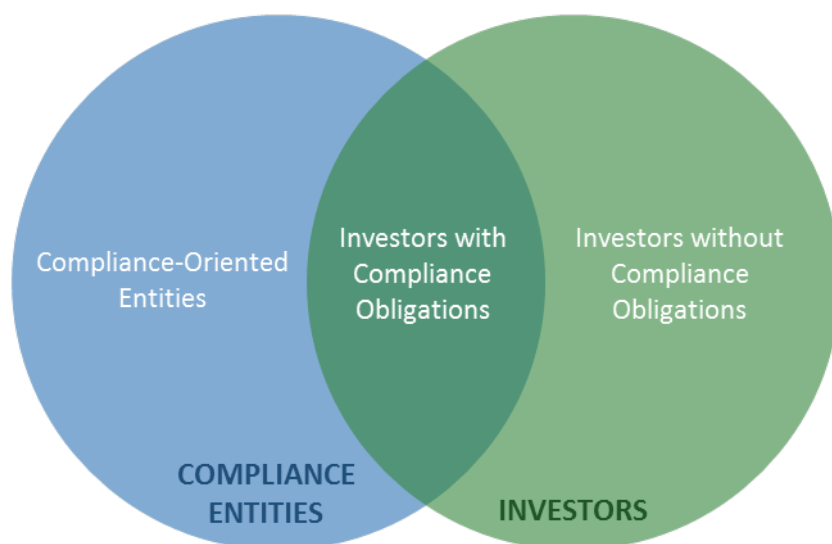


## B. SUMMARY OF PURCHASES OF ALLOWANCES IN AUCTION 65

*Awards were distributed across 42 bidders with five bidders purchasing one million tons or more and 23 bidders purchasing 200,000 tons or more.*

This report summarizes participation in Auction 65. 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>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 65, Compliance Entities purchased 75 percent of the allowances sold. In the first 65 RGGI auctions, Compliance Entities purchased 72 percent of the allowances sold. In Auction 65, Compliance-Oriented Entities purchased 66 percent of the allowances sold.

After settlement of allowances sold in Auction 65:

- Forty-two percent of the allowances in circulation will be held by Compliance-Oriented Entities.
- Forty-six 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>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>	<b>Bidder</b>	<b>Number of Allowances Awarded</b>
Bidder 1	2,500,000	Bidder 22	200,000
Bidder 2	1,245,608	Bidder 23	200,000
Bidder 3	1,153,000	Bidder 24	160,000
Bidder 4	1,083,000	Bidder 25	150,000
Bidder 5	1,000,000	Bidder 26	142,000
Bidder 6	900,000	Bidder 27	118,000
Bidder 7	880,000	Bidder 28	115,000
Bidder 8	616,000	Bidder 29	100,000
Bidder 9	562,000	Bidder 30	54,000
Bidder 10	560,000	Bidder 31	50,000
Bidder 11	541,000	Bidder 32	40,000
Bidder 12	461,000	Bidder 33	35,000
Bidder 13	425,000	Bidder 34	33,000
Bidder 14	425,000	Bidder 35	29,000
Bidder 15	380,000	Bidder 36	20,000
Bidder 16	325,000	Bidder 37	16,000
Bidder 17	314,000	Bidder 38	16,000
Bidder 18	307,000	Bidder 39	14,000
Bidder 19	300,000	Bidder 40	9,000
Bidder 20	239,000	Bidder 41	5,000
Bidder 21	220,000	Bidder 42	1,000

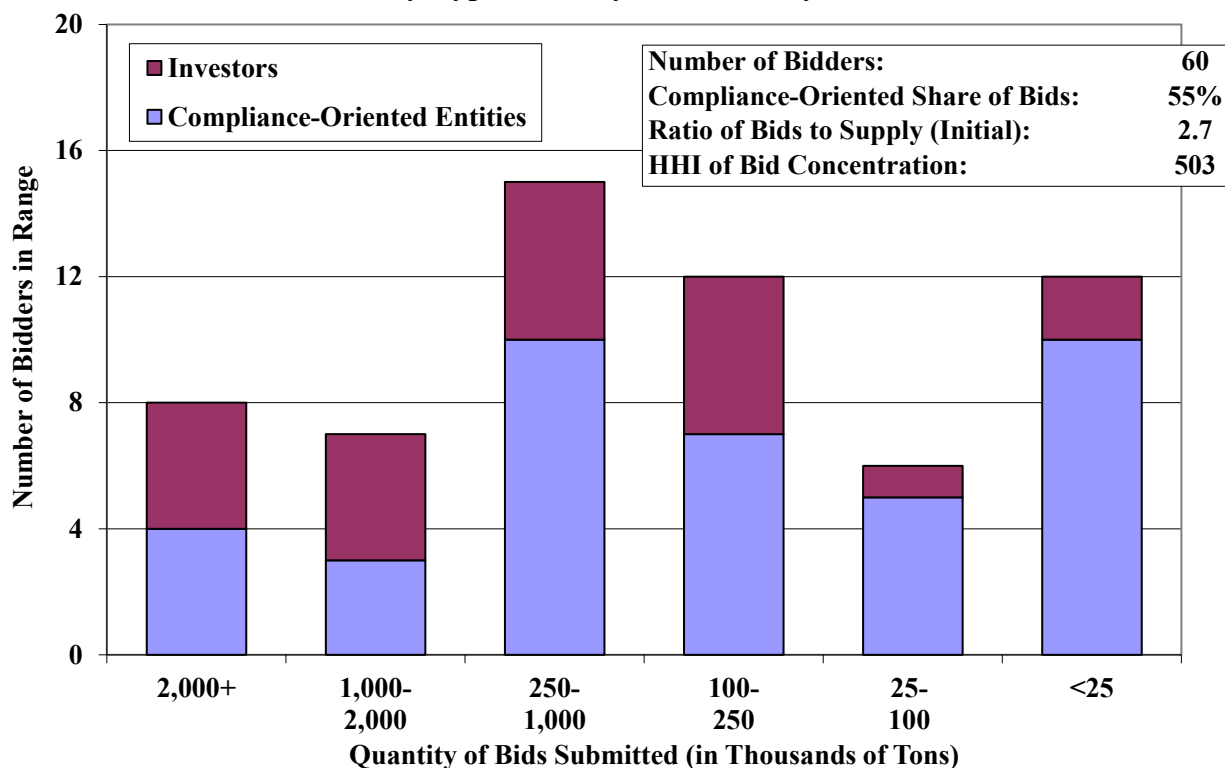
**C. DISPERSION OF BIDS IN AUCTION 65**

*Bids were submitted by 39 Compliance-Oriented Entities and 21 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. Seven Compliance-Oriented Entities and eight Investors submitted bids for a large quantity of allowances (i.e., at least 1 million tons). Overall, Compliance-Oriented Entities accounted for 55 percent of the quantity of allowances for which bids were submitted. The quantity of allowances for which bids were submitted was 2.7 times the Initial Offering. In the previous auction, the quantity of allowances for which bids were submitted was also 2.7 times the Initial Offering.

The bid quantities were widely distributed among the 60 bidders. The concentration of bids, using the Herfindahl-Hirschman Index (“HHI”), was relatively low at 503. 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 65**

*Bids were submitted across a wide range of prices in the auction and the clearing price of \$25.75 was relatively consistent with average bid prices submitted.*

The following table reports several statistics regarding the bid prices for bids submitted in Auction 65. 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>\$2.56</b>
<b>Maximum</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>
<b>Average (Median)</b>	<b>\$24.61</b>
<b>Average (Mean)</b>	<b>\$21.84</b>
<b>Clearing Price:</b>	<b>\$25.75</b>

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**E. NAMES OF POTENTIAL BIDDERS IN AUCTION 65**

In accordance with Sections 2.8 and 3 of the Auction Notice for CO<sub>2</sub> Allowance Auction 65, the Participating States are releasing the names of Potential Bidders in Auction 65. The states defined potential bidders as: “Each Applicant that has been qualified and submitted a complete *Intent to Bid.*” The list of 77 Potential Bidders is as follows:

Anew Environmental, LLC	LMR Multi-Strategy Master Fund Limited
Astoria Energy, LLC	Lockport Energy Associates, L.P.
Bowline, LLC	Macquarie Energy, LLC
Caithness Long Island, LLC	Mercuria Energy America, LLC
Calpine Energy Services, LP	Morgan Stanley Capital Group, Inc.
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce	National Grid Generation LLC dba National Grid
Carbon Lighthouse Association	Nautilus Power, LLC
Castleton Commodities Merchant Trading, LP	Newark Energy Center
Citadel Energy Marketing LLC	NextEra Energy Marketing, LLC
City of Vineland	NRG Business Marketing LLC
Cogen Technologies Linden Venture, L.P.	Ocean State Power, LLC
Consolidated Edison Comp. of NY, Inc.	Old Dominion Electric Cooperative
Constellation Energy Generation, LLC	Pacific Summit Energy LLC
Cooler, Inc.	Parkway Generation, LLC
CP Energy Marketing (US) Inc.	Pegasus Development Corporation
CPV Maryland, LLC	PetroChina International (America), Inc.
CPV Shore, LLC	Pier61 Partners, LLC
CPV Towantic, LLC	Pinelawn Power, LLC
CPV Valley, LLC	Power Authority of the State of New York
Cricket Valley Energy Center, LLC	RBC
Delaware City Refining Company, LLC	Red Oak Power, LLC
DRW Investments LLC	Revere Power, LLC
DTE Energy Trading, Inc.	Rhode Island State Energy Center, LP
Dynegy Marketing and Trade, LLC	Selkirk Cogen Partners, LP
East Coast Environmental, LLC	Shell Energy North America (US), LP
Edgewood Energy, LLC	Shoreham Energy, LLC
Empire Generating Co., LLC	Statkraft US, LLC
Energy Center Dover	STX Commodities LLC
Equus Power I, LP	Taunton Municipal Lighting Plant
Fortistar North Tonawanda Inc	Tenaska Power Services Co.
Global Carbon Opportunity (SPV) Fund LLC	Tenaska, Inc.
Hartree Partners, LP	Trafigura Trading LLC
Hawkeye Energy Greenport	Trailstone Commodity Trading US, LLC
Helix Ravenswood Energy, LLC	Uniper Global Commodities North America LLC
Indeck-Corinth Limited Partnership	Village of Freeport
J. Aron & Company	Vitol Inc.
Kendall Green Energy LLC	Wallingford Energy, LLC
Kleen Energy Systems, LLC	West Coast Environmental, LLC
KMC Thermo, LLC	