



CRS

center for
resource
solutions

[SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY AT <http://www.regulations.gov>]

November 1, 2016

The Honorable Gina McCarthy, Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
U.S. EPA Headquarters—William J. Clinton Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Comments of Center for Resource Solutions (CRS) on Clean Energy Incentive Program Design Details, Docket ID No. EPA–HQ–OAR–2016–0033

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

CRS appreciates this opportunity to comment on the June 2016 Clean Energy Incentive Program (CEIP) Design Details (“CEIP Proposed Rule”).

Introduction to CRS

CRS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that creates policy and market solutions to advance sustainable energy. Since 1997, CRS has been instrumental in the development of landmark state, regional and national renewable energy and climate policies. CRS has also provided regular technical assistance and guidance to electricity attribute tracking systems and other electricity sector functional support entities around the country. CRS also administers the Green-e® programs. Green-e Energy is North America’s leading independent consumer protection program providing certification and verification for renewable electricity and Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) in the U.S. voluntary market. In 2015, that program certified the majority of the U.S. voluntary renewable energy market.

Comments

Certain state and voluntary renewable energy programs (e.g. state Renewable Portfolio Standards [RPS] or Green-e) may wish to prevent CEIP renewable energy projects or generation that is awarded early action emission rate credits (ERCs) or allowances from being used in their programs, as it is not therefore surplus to Clean Power Plan (CPP) regulation. In addition, certain buyers of energy or attributes from CEIP renewable energy projects may wish to procure and retire allowances or ERCs to restore regulatory surplus, or have them retired on their behalf.

Recommendations

1. We recommend that EPA maintain or require states to maintain a precise public listing of CEIP projects and generation that is awarded allowances or ERCs. Providing such a list promotes transparency and will provide needed information to other renewable energy programs that are meant to be incremental to CPP compliance (including voluntary programs and compliance programs in that state or other states).

2. We recommend that EPA advise states to require notification to all counterparties in transactions of energy or generation attributes with CEIP renewable energy projects, including the energy offtaker and the REC buyer, that the project is receiving ERCs or allowances.
3. We recommend that EPA require that the allowance or ERC tracking mechanism be available and accessible to non-project owner and non-compliance entities, such that these entities are able to voluntarily procure and retire allowances and ERCs.
4. Beyond the limited scope of the CEIP, we recommend that EPA advise states to provide a mechanism that can retire ERCs and Allowances on behalf of voluntary renewable energy buyers who wish their actions to be surplus to CPP regulation in order to sustain voluntary activity that drives reductions beyond the CPP.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments and please contact me with any questions, for more information, to discuss further, or if we can otherwise be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Todd Jones', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Todd Jones
Senior Manager, Policy and Climate Change Programs