



www.ClimateActionNowMA.org

Department of Energy Resources (DOER)
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 1020
Boston, MA 02114

March 29, 2022

Re: RPS Public Comment

Dear Commissioner Woodcock et al,

The latest IPCC report calls for nothing less than bold action to avert the most devastating impacts of climate disruption. Yet the proposed loosening of RPS regulations regarding biomass plants would in fact set us backwards and increase our GHG emissions regionally.

The proposed weakened regulations would allow out of state biomass burning electricity plants to receive Massachusetts ratepayer incentives though previously those plants would not have been eligible because their inefficiency. Since the RPS dollars that ratepayers provide are expressly for the purpose of increasing the amount of clean, renewable energy on our electric grid, this redirecting of those dollars to prop up dirty inefficient biomass burning plants would be a travesty. There is no justifiable rationale for the proposed changes since they will further impede our ability to meet our climate goals.

In addition, the new proposed changes would roll back the provision that would bar any biomass power plants from qualifying for the RPS if they are located in, or within five miles of, an environmental justice community. DOER now is proposing to exempt plants built before 2022 from the environmental justice requirements. This is simply outrageous and inexplicable.

Massachusetts ratepayers do not want our clean energy funds to be used to incentivize old, polluting, power plants no matter where they are located, and we ask that you withdraw this counterproductive loosening of our RPS regulations at this time. We need instead to drastically increase the amount of truly clean renewable energy generation in order to avert the worst consequences of climate change and to meet our climate goals.

Sincerely,

Adele Franks

On behalf of the Steering Committee, Climate Action Now, Western Mass (CAN)