



**MARKET MONITOR REPORT ON THE ELECTRICITY
GENERATOR EMISSIONS LIMITS PROGRAM (310 CMR 7.74):
AUCTION 2022-1**

Prepared for:

**Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection on behalf of the
Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

Prepared by:

**POTOMAC
ECONOMICS**

December 17, 2021

Potomac Economics is the Market Monitor for the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (“MassDEP”) program to limit CO₂ emissions from electricity generating facilities located in Massachusetts.¹ Potomac Economics monitors the conduct of market participants in the auctions and in the secondary market to identify indications of anti-competitive conduct. This report discusses our assessment of Auction 2022-1, which was held on December 15, 2021.

Ten bidders participated in the offering of 1,611,909 CO₂ allowances for the 2022 compliance year. Bids were submitted to purchase 1.37 times the available supply of allowances, resulting in a clearing price of \$9.75 per metric ton. Auction 2022-1 was the first of four auctions that will be conducted to sell allowances for the 2022 compliance year.

Based on our review of auction outcomes and bidding of individual Regulated Entities, we find:

- Most of the allowances were awarded to Regulated Entities who will need them to satisfy their forecasted compliance obligations for 2022, while some were awarded to firms that will likely use them for compliance in subsequent years and/or sell them in the secondary market.
- The clearing price of \$9.75 per metric ton was lower than secondary market transaction prices reported for 2021 compliance year allowances, but it was in line with the \$10.00 per metric ton clearing price in Auction 2021-4 which was held in September.
- Bid prices were widely dispersed, reflecting considerable variation among Regulated Entities in their expectations regarding the value of allowances. The wide dispersion of bid prices reflects that relatively little market information has been available regarding the value of allowances.

In summary, most allowances were awarded to the firms that will likely need them for 2022 compliance, while some acquired more than they will likely need for 2022 compliance. We did not observe behavior that would raise significant concerns regarding the competitiveness of the auction results.

¹ <https://www.mass.gov/guides/electricity-generator-emissions-limits-310-cmr-774>