Public Hearings under the Global Warming Solutions Act: Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Greenhouse Gas Emissions Target and Draft Climate Implementation Plan for 2020

The Patrick Administration has been at the forefront of moving Massachusetts into the clean energy future with an integrated approach to reduce greenhouse gases, seize economic development opportunities, reduce our dependence on foreign fossil fuel and reduce energy costs for consumers. As part of this broad approach, in August 2008, Governor Patrick signed into law the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA), making Massachusetts one of the first states in the nation to move forward with a comprehensive regulatory program to address climate change. The Act requires an 80 percent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions economy-wide by 2050, with a 2020 target to be set between 10 and 25 percent below 1990 levels. Massachusetts has already promulgated greenhouse gas reporting regulations under the Act; 2009 emissions will be the first year reported.

The Act requires that by January 1, 2011 the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA), in consultation with other state agencies and the public, adopt a greenhouse gas emissions target for 2020 that is between 10 and 25 percent below 1990 emissions levels and an implementation plan for achieving the reductions required to meet the target.

In February, the Commonwealth's technical consultant completed an analysis that showed that state and federal policies now in place or anticipated have Massachusetts on track toward emissions reductions of 18 percent by 2020. On Earth Day, April 22, 2009, the Secretary announced that hearings would be held around the state to take public comment on a 2020 reduction target between 18 percent and 25 percent. The "Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Draft Climate Implementation Plan: A framework for meeting the 2020 and 2050 goals of the Global Warming Solutions Act" is available on the MassDEP website at http://www.mass.gov/dep/air/climate/draftcip.doc. The Secretary also requests testimony on measures to achieve the target that show potential for energy cost savings and job growth and has recently released a draft report on this topic entitled Cost Effective Greenhouse Gas Mitigation in Massachusetts: An Analysis of 2020 Potential.

The meetings will begin with two short informational presentations. The first presentation will be an overview of the Commonwealth's work on a 2020 emissions target and the Draft Climate Implementation Plan. The second presentation will summarize the results of the technical analysis of GHG reduction potential for 2020. After a brief time for clarifying questions, the formal hearing will be opened for testimony.

A schedule of the hearings is posted on the MassDEP website at http://www.mass.gov/dep/air/climate/gwsa_hearings.htm and is listed below.

Please circulate this announcement to your associates and/or members who may have an interest in these hearings.

Hearing Schedule:

Tuesday, June 1, 2010
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Berkshire Athenaeum
One Wendell Avenue
Pittsfield, MA

Thursday, June 3, 2010
5:30-7:30 p.m.
MassDEP Central Regional Office
627 Main Street
Worcester, MA

Monday, June 7, 2010
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Pollard Memorial Library
401 Merrimack Street
Lowell, MA

Tuesday, June 8, 2010
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Lakeville Public Library
4 Precinct Street
Lakeville, MA

Wednesday, June 9, 2010
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Springfield Public Library
220 State Street
Springfield, MA

Monday, June 14, 2010
1:30-3:30 p.m.
McCormack Building
21st Floor, Rooms 1 & 2
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA

Tuesday, June 15, 2010
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Clark Building, 5th Floor Conference Area
Quisset Campus
Woods Hole, MA

Tuesday, June 22, 2010
6:00-8:00 pm
Tobin Community Center
1481 Tremont Street
Boston, MA

These hearings will be conducted under the provisions of M.G.L. chapter 30A. The public hearing notice is at http://www.mass.gov/dep/public/hearings/gwsa0610.htm .

Please accept my apologies for cross postings.

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www.mass.gov/dep/air/climate