

Nuclear New York

Independent Advocates

for Reliable Carbon-Free Energy

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NuclearNY.org



January 8, 2026

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, New York 12203-6399

Submitted to rggiprograms@nyserda.ny.gov

(pursuant to the public comment period that closes on January 9, 2026)

Re: Support for Nuclear Energy in RGGI Operating Plan

Dear NYSERDA staff, NYSERDA Board of Directors, and DEC

Please accept the following comments in support of funding for advanced nuclear energy through New York's Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) Operating Plan.

Nuclear New York is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit organization working for a prosperous decarbonized future and nature conservation. Our mission is to advocate for the peaceful use of nuclear technology to meet society's need for reliable, emission-free energy and provide well-paid meaningful jobs that underwrite vibrant, healthy communities. We conduct research and educational activities in New York and beyond.

Our organization commends the 2026 Draft RGGI Operating Plan Amendment for recognizing the value of a balanced portfolio of carbon-free resources. Consistent with this, under theme 2 titled **Energy Abundance, Diversity, and Reliability**, the proposed amendment allocates RGGI funds to advanced nuclear generation and related activities, stating specifically that this will assist in *"bringing forward Advanced Nuclear generation projects and associated investments, including early project development activities, helping communities to identify and assess potential nuclear project sites, supply chain investments to develop and increase New York's capacity for in-state and export markets, and workforce training initiatives..."*

With the ability to deliver carbon-free electricity on a continuous (baseload) or dispatchable basis, advanced nuclear is essential to addressing reliability challenges that will intensify as fossil fuel use declines, intermittent renewables are added to the grid, and energy demand continues to grow. Receiving special attention in the state's recently adopted Energy Plan, nuclear technology is clean, firm, and scalable—attributes vital to achieving New York's goal of zero-emission electricity.

That said, investing in advanced nuclear energy supports other themes identified by the proposed RGGI amendment as well. Nuclear contributes to long-term **affordability** (theme 1) by reducing the system-level costs of storage, transmission, backup generation, and other infrastructure otherwise associated with a grid that is overly dependent on intermittent resources. Unlike weather-dependent generation and batteries that require frequent replacement, nuclear reactors are also durable assets, lasting 80 years or more with proper maintenance. Importantly, nuclear energy furthers **innovation and economic development** (theme 3) by creating long-term, quality jobs and providing the abundant, reliable electricity essential for advanced manufacturing, data centers, and economic competitiveness in the 21st century. Likewise, investing in advanced nuclear will benefit **communities and the environment** (theme 4) by boosting local economies where new reactors are built, by improving air quality, and by conserving farmland, wildlife habitat, and natural resources. The fact that nuclear power is compact, energy dense, and materially-efficient will become an increasingly important factor as the state seeks to scale up clean energy.

New York can facilitate each of the above objectives by strategically allocating RGGI funds for advanced nuclear and partnering with the New York Power Authority as proposed. Relating to this, we encourage NYSERDA to leverage RGGI proceeds in ways that will unlock private capital and federal matching opportunities. This will ensure that New York remains competitive in its pursuit of nuclear technology while limiting project risk and attracting necessary investment.

Across the nation, states are actively positioning themselves to benefit from new nuclear—and thanks to Governor Hochul’s leadership, New York is one of them. We strongly support including advanced nuclear in the state’s RGGI Operating Plan as an important step toward developing an effective, comprehensive approach to curbing emissions, strengthening the electric grid, and promoting sustainable economic development. Thank you again for this opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dietmar Detering". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Dietmar Detering, Chair

Nuclear New York

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