

## Auction Notice

# Québec Cap-and-Trade System and California Cap-and-Trade Program Joint Auction of Greenhouse Gas Allowances On February 17, 2016

Issued on December 18, 2015

### Auction Summary

This document, Auction Notice for the Québec Cap-and-Trade System and California Cap-and-Trade Program Joint Auction of Greenhouse Gas Allowances on February 17, 2016 (Auction Notice), is the official notification for the February 17, 2016, joint greenhouse gas (GHG) allowance auction (February 2016 Joint Auction #6). The February 2016 Joint Auction #6 will offer year multiple vintages allowances in the Current Auction and year 2019 future vintage allowances in the Advance Auction. In the Auction Platform, the February 2016 Joint Auction #6 is identified by the title Joint Auction/Enchère liée #6.

**This Auction Notice provides information about allowances to be auctioned and auction schedule.** Additional background information and detailed instructions and examples are posted annually to provide information that remains static for each auction throughout the year.

The 2016 Detailed Instructions and Requirements document provides background information on the Québec Cap-and-Trade System and California Cap-and-Trade Program as well as detailed instructions and requirements for participating in a joint auction, including eligibility; applicant requirements; administrative requirements; submitting a bid guarantee, and bidding; and a description of the process to complete auction settlement and transfer of allowances. This document was formerly included as Attachment A to each Auction Notice.

The 2016 Auction Examples document provides information and examples of how to determine the amount of a bid guarantee, how holding and purchase limits are applied, how U.S. and Canadian currencies are handled, and examples of how joint auctions are settled. This document was formerly included as Attachment B to each Auction Notice.

### Date and Time of Auction

**The February 2016 Joint Auction #6 is scheduled to take place from 10:00 AM Pacific Time (PT) / 1:00 PM Eastern Time (ET) until 1:00 PM PT / 4:00 PM ET.**

The Auction Platform can be accessed at <https://www.wci-auction.org/qc/> or from the jurisdictions' and WCI, Inc.'s webpages.

## Allowances Offered for Sale

The auction of allowances from the current and previous budget years is known as the Current Auction. The auction of future vintage allowances is known as the Advance Auction. The Current Auction and Advance Auction will occur simultaneously at the date and time identified in this Auction Notice. The number of allowances that will be available for sale in the Current Auction and Advance Auction are provided in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Allowances Offered for Sale**

<b>Auction</b>	<b>Number of Allowances</b>
<b>Current Auction</b>	<b>71,555,827</b>
<b>Advance Auction</b>	<b>10,078,750</b>

For the February 2016 Joint Auction #6, there will be multiple vintages offered within the Current Auction. For allowances awarded in the Current Auction, allowances will be transferred to successful bidders according to the requirements of the Québec Regulation and the California Regulation. The number of allowances offered by vintage in the Current Auction conducted in February 2016 are provided in Table 2 below:

**Table 2: Current Auction Allowances Offered for Sale by Vintage**

<b>Vintage Year</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>2013</b>	<b>1,073,347</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>537,971</b>
<b>2016</b>	<b>69,944,509</b>
<b>Total Current Auction Budget</b>	<b>71,555,827</b>

## Annual Reserve Prices

The Annual Auction Reserve Price refers to the Auction Reserve Price established and published annually by each jurisdiction. The Annual Auction Reserve Price is a predetermined minimum price at which allowances would be sold to auction participants in jurisdiction specific auctions. Each jurisdiction provides an Annual Auction Reserve Price that conforms to its Regulation.

The Annual Reserve Prices for Québec and California are provided in table 3 below. The Québec Annual Reserve Price is presented in Canadian Dollars (CAD) and the California Annual Reserve Price is presented in United States Dollars (USD). The actual Auction Reserve Price in effect for each joint auction is determined the day prior to the joint auction based on the Auction Exchange Rate. This Auction Exchange Rate and Auction Reserve Price are required for joint auction currency management and are described in further detail in the 2016 Detailed Instructions and Requirements document.

**Table 3: 2016 Annual Reserve Prices**

<b>Auction</b>	<b>Québec Annual Reserve Price (CAD)</b>	<b>California Annual Reserve Price (USD)</b>
<b>Current Auction</b>	<b>12,82</b>	<b>12,73</b>
<b>Advance Auction</b>	<b>12,82</b>	<b>12,73</b>

## **Auction Application Requirements and Instructions**

### **I. Eligibility**

All entities eligible to participate in an auction under Québec Cap-and-Trade System or the California Cap-and-Trade Program are eligible to participate in a joint auction. Québec emitters and participants (Québec entities) are eligible to participate in a joint auction. California covered entities, opt-in covered entities, and voluntarily associated entities (California entities) are eligible to participate in a joint auction.

### **II. Administrative Requirements**

Administrative requirements are requirements that must be met before being granted access to access the Auction Platform to submit an entity's application or confirm an entity's intent to bid in an auction. These requirements include selecting the "Auction Participation" box in CITSS to agree to have entity account and account representative information transferred to the Auction Administrator and Financial Services Administrator for the purpose of facilitating participation in any upcoming auction. To establish access to the Auction Platform a Primary Account Representative (PAR) or Alternate Account Representative (AAR) must be authorized by an entity to act on its behalf in an auction.

These requirements are described in further detail in the 2016 Detailed Instructions and Requirements document.

### **III. Application Requirements**

An entity will be required to complete an auction participant application at least 30 days prior to an auction in which it intends to participate. An entity applying for approval as an auction participant must be registered under the Québec Cap-and-Trade System or the California Cap-and-Trade Program and have a Compliance Instrument Tracking System Service (CITSS) General Holding Account that has not been revoked or suspended.

Auction application information provided includes the following:

1. Information submitted in the process of obtaining a CITSS account:
  - a. Corporate identity, ownership, and capital structure of the applicant;
  - b. The existence of any direct or indirect corporate associations; and
  - c. An allocation of the purchase limit and holding limit among associated entities, if applicable.
2. Bid guarantee form, currency, and return instruction,
3. An attestations response.

Once an entity has been approved to participate in an auction, the entity does not need complete another application for subsequent auctions unless there is a material change to the information contained in the approved application, although an entity that intends to participate in an auction must inform the Auction Administrator at least 30 days prior to an auction of its intent to bid in an auction, otherwise the entity may not participate in that auction.

Auction application requirements are described further detail in the 2016 Detailed Instructions and Requirements document.

## Auction Schedule

Table 4 below presents the current schedule for activities associated with the February 2016 Joint Auction #6 (Auction Schedule). Any changes to the Auction Schedule will be communicated through an updated Auction Notice and by email to the PAR and AARs of Québec and California registered entities who have selected the “Auction Participation” box in CITSS.

**Table 4: Auction Schedule**

<b>Activités</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Time - Pacific Time (PT) / Eastern Time (ET)</b>
Auction Notice released/ Auction application period opens	Friday, December 18, 2015	12:00 PM (Noon) PT / 3:00 PM ET
Deadline for QC entities to make changes in CITSS and submit all hard copy documents accompanying these changes <sup>1</sup>	Friday, January 8, 2016	
Deadline for CA entities to make changes in CITSS and submit all hard copy documents accompanying these changes and to complete or provide an update to the Auction Application Attestation Disclosure	Tuesday, January 19, 2016	
Auction application period closes	Tuesday, January 19, 2016	8:59 PM PT / 11:59 PM ET
All bid guarantees due to Financial Services Administrator	Friday, February 5, 2016	No later than 3:00 PM PT / 6:00 PM ET
Auction participants approved and PAR and AARs notified	Friday, February 5, 2016	
Auction Exchange Rate and Auction Reserve Price Posted to Auction Platform	Tuesday, February 16, 2016	
Auction held	Wednesday, February 17, 2016	Bidding window open from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM PT / 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM ET
Joint Auction Summary Results Report released	Wednesday, February 24, 2016	12:00 PM (Noon) PT / 3:00 PM ET
Auction Certified / Auction results available to qualified bidders	Wednesday, February 24, 2016	12:00 PM (Noon) PT / 3:00 PM ET
Financial settlement in cash due to Financial Services Administrator	Wednesday, March 2, 2016	No later than 3:00 PM PT / 6:00 PM ET
Distribution of auction proceeds completed by	Tuesday, March 15, 2016	
Transfer of allowances into CITSS Accounts	Tuesday, March 15, 2016	
Québec and California Post Joint Auction Public Proceeds Reports released	Tuesday, March 15, 2016	
Earliest date for bid guarantee expiration	Monday, March 14, 2016 (26 days after	

<sup>1</sup> Under the Québec Cap-and-Trade System and Québec Regulation it is required that changes related to the distribution of the holding limit or any new business relationships must be sent to the Minister not less than forty (40) days before an auction.

<b>Activités</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Time - Pacific Time (PT) / Eastern Time (ET)</b>
	auction)	

## **Procedures for Conducting the Auction**

Each quarterly joint auction will be conducted using an electronic, internet-based Auction Platform that bidders use to apply to participate in an auction and submit bids in a single-round, sealed-bid auction format. Each entity must submit an application for or confirm its intent to bid in an auction. Under the Québec Cap-and-Trade System and Québec Regulation it is required that changes related to the distribution of the holding limit or any new business relationships must be sent to the Minister not less than forty (40) days before an auction.

## **Form and Manner for Submitting Bids**

Participants will be able to submit bids manually and upload bid schedules in a pre-defined Excel template in the Auction Platform during the bidding window. Bid quantities can only be submitted in multiples of 1,000 allowances. The form and manner for submitting bids are described in further detail in the 2016 Detailed Instructions and Requirements document with specific examples provided in the 2016 Auction Examples document.

## **Auction Participant Training Materials**

An Auction Participant Training presentation for QC entities is available on the Québec Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques (MDDELCC) Carbon Market webpage. An Auction Participant Training presentation for CA entities is available on the California Air Resources Board (ARB) Auction Information webpage. Each presentation includes information on administrative and regulatory requirements for auction participation, the auction application process, bid guarantee submission, bid submission, settlement price determination, and financial settlement processes for auctions.

Training materials are also available from the Auction Platform, and include a calendar of upcoming activities, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), the Auction Participant Training presentation, and an Auction and Reserve Sale User Guide. Training materials are available both English and French for QC participants and in English for CA participants.

## **Auction Participant Training Webinars**

Québec and California will hold two auction participant training webinar sessions to describe how to apply for an auction and submit bids in the Auction Platform, as well as how to submit a bid guarantee. Each training session will include the same information, and a question and answer period. The details for these auction training webinar sessions are provided below.

### **Auction Participant Training Webinar #1 (English)**

Date: January 7, 2016

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM PT / 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM ET

Click here to register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5121591504106845953>

*Note: Potential participants are strongly encouraged to register in advance of the Webinar event. Upon completing registration, potential participants will receive a follow up e-mail from GoToWebinar with a link that will enable computer access to the video portion of the Webinar at the time of the event.*

To access the audio portion of the Webinar, please use your phone to dial in as follows:

Webinar Dial-In Number (US and Canada toll free): 1-888-282-9570

Webinar Dial-In Number (toll applies): 1-517-308-9036

Participant Passcode: 1023041

### **Auction Participant Training Webinar #2 (French)**

Date: January 12, 2016

Time: 7:00 AM – 9:00 AM PT / 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM ET

For this Webinar, all account representatives registered in Québec will automatically receive an invitation. If you are not registered in Québec but wish to participate to the training session, please please communicate with QC staff at [spede-bcc@mddelcc.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:spede-bcc@mddelcc.gouv.qc.ca).

Participant Phone numbers and Webinar Passcode will be communicated in the invitation sent by email. The Auction Participant Training presentation will also be sent to all participants prior to the Webinar.

### **Additional Information**

Additional information the Québec Cap-and-Trade System and on the California Cap-and-Trade Program is available on the jurisdiction webpages as follows:

#### **Québec**

Cap-and-Trade System:

<http://www.mddelcc.gouv.qc.ca/changements/carbone/Systeme-plafonnement-droits-GES.htm>

<http://www.mddelcc.gouv.qc.ca/changements/carbone/index.asp>

#### **California**

California

Cap-and-Trade Program: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/capandtrade/capandtrade.htm>

Auction Information: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/auction>

CITSS Information: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/citss>

Cap-and-Trade Hotline : (916) 322-2037

### **Auction Contact Information**

For further information about participation in the February 2016 Joint Auction #6, please contact one of the following:

Québec Cap-and-Trade System

Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques

[spede-bcc@mddelcc.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:spede-bcc@mddelcc.gouv.qc.ca)

(418) 521-3830, (418) 521-3860 ou 1-800-561-1616, option n° 5

California Cap-and-Trade Program

Mike Ginty, California Air Resources Board

[mginty@arb.ca.gov](mailto:mginty@arb.ca.gov)

(916) 445-8197