



Invitation to Investor Roundtable on Water Quality Trading



When: Thursday, November 5th, 3pm to 5pm

Where: Encourage Capital, 1350 Avenue of Americas 29th Floor; New York, NY 10019

What: Impact Investor Roundtable on the viability for Water Quality Trading credits to be good investments.

RSVP: Limited Space. Jessica Fox, jfox@epri.com, 650-855-2138

Expert Speakers:

Jessica Fox, Sr. Program Manager, Electric Power Research Institute
Brooks Smith, Environmental and Natural Resources Partner, Troutman Sanders
Kathy Benini, Global Head of Environmental Products, Markit
Paul Marchetti, Executive Director, PENNVEST

Description:

The Roundtable will discuss the viability for Water Quality Trading (WQT) credits to be productive investments. We will use the Ohio River Basin Trading Project as a test case, which is the world's largest WQT program and has the potential to move millions of private dollars to help farmers reduce nutrient loading to local and regional waterbodies. The project is also a national testbed for how WQT can be used to improve ecological conditions, support farmers, and provide quantified conservation.

Participants will be provided with an overview of the project, supply-demand cost curves, and specific participation scenarios. A facilitated discussion will follow to identify any missing elements to unleash the market for impact investors. The results of the Roundtable will directly inform the future path of water quality trading programs throughout the United States.

Background:

Since 2009, the Electric Power Research Institute and a strong collaboration of power companies, farmers, state and federal agencies and environmental interests have been working to develop an interstate Water Quality Trading (WQT) program in Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky. Focused on environmental impacts from multiple, diverse sources, the project is facilitating broad non-traditional collaborations to achieve a common goal of water quality improvements and broader environmental improvements.

Private dollars have been invested in farm management practices to reduce nutrient runoff, support farmers, and provide important ecosystem benefits in the Ohio River Basin. Now, the resulting credits are available for purchase. Backed by science, metrics and state approvals, credits can be applied toward sustainability goals, offsetting supply chain impacts, Clean Water Act permit requirements, or other water quality requirements.

A credit is a quantified reduction of a pollutant. Each credit equals one pound of nutrient (nitrogen or phosphorous) reduction, plus associated ancillary benefits including pollinator habitat, greenhouse gas avoidance, habitat enhancement, and social benefits to farmers. A thorough and transparent process ensures that credits represent real environmental improvements which have been verified by State agricultural and permitting agencies.

Now that this program is developed and proven, EPRI is working to understand the role of impact investors in purchasing credits, or otherwise investing in the program. <http://wqt.epri.com>

