The information presented here reflects EPA's modeling of the Clear Skies Act of 2002. The Agency is in the process of updating this information to reflect modifications included in the Clear Skies Act of 2003. The revised information will be posted on the Agency's Clear Skies Web site (www.epa.gov/clearskies) as soon as possible.

CLEAR SKIES IN RHODE ISLAND [1]

Human Health and Environmental Benefits of Clear Skies: Clear Skies would protect human health, improve air quality, and reduce deposition of sulfur dioxide (SO_2), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), and mercury.[2]

- Beginning in 2020, approximately $400 million of the annual health benefits of Clear Skies would occur in Rhode Island. Every year, these would include:
  - approximately 1,000 fewer days with asthma attacks;
  - approximately 8,000 fewer days of work lost due to respiratory symptoms; and
  - over 52,000 fewer total days with respiratory-related symptoms.

- There are no counties in Rhode Island currently expected to be out of attainment with the fine particle standard. Clear Skies would, however, achieve additional reductions in fine particles that would further protect human health.

- Currently, three Rhode Island counties (Kent, Providence, and Washington—population approximately 1 million) are projected to exceed the 8-hour ozone standard. All Rhode Island counties are projected to be in attainment with the 8-hour ozone standard by 2010 under the existing Clean Air Act. Clear Skies would, however, achieve additional reductions in ozone that will further protect human health.[4]

- Clear Skies would deliver numerous environmental benefits by 2020:
  - visibility would improve 1-2 deciviews throughout the entire state (a change of 1 deciview is a perceptible change in visibility);
  - sulfur deposition would decrease by 15-30% throughout the state;
  - nitrogen deposition, which contributes to coastal eutrophication, would be reduced by up to 15% throughout much of the state, and up to 30% in some coastal areas; and
  - mercury deposition would be reduced up to 25% throughout the state.

Clear Skies Benefits Nationwide

- In 2020, annual health benefits from reductions in ozone and fine particles would total $93 billion, including 12,000 fewer premature deaths, far outweighing the $6.49 billion cost of the Clear Skies program.
- Using an alternative methodology results in over 7,000 premature deaths prevented and $11 billion in benefits by 2020—still exceeding the cost of the program.[3]
- Clear Skies would provide an additional $3 billion in benefits due to improved visibility in National Parks and wilderness areas in 2020.

[1] The projected impacts are the results of extensive emissions and regional air quality modeling and benefits analyses as summarized in the *Technical Addendum: Methodologies for Benefit Analysis of the Clear Skies Initiative, 2002*. While the policy analyses tools EPA used are among the best available, all such national scale policy assessments are subject to a number of uncertainties, particularly when projecting air quality or environmental impacts in particular locations.

[2] All human health and environmental benefits are calculated in comparison to existing Clean Air Act programs.

[3] The two sets of estimates reflect alternative assumptions and analytical approaches regarding quantifying and evaluating the effects of airborne particles on public health. All estimates assume that particles are causally associated with health effects, and that all components have the same toxicity. Linear concentration-response relationships between PM and all health effects are assumed, indicating that reductions in PM have the same impact on health outcomes regardless of the absolute level of PM in a given location. The base estimate relies on estimates of the potential cumulative effect of long-term exposure to particles, while the alternative estimate presumes that PM effects are limited to those that accumulate over much shorter time periods. All such estimates are subject to a number of assumptions and uncertainties. It is of note that, based on recent preliminary findings from the Health Effects Institute, the magnitude of mortality from short-term exposure (alternative estimates) and hospital/ER admissions estimates (both estimates) may be overstated. The alternatives also use different approaches to value health effects damages. The key assumptions, uncertainties, and valuation methodologies underlying the approaches used to produce these results are detailed in the *Technical Addendum* noted above.

[4] To permit comparisons among various analyses, the air quality data used in this analysis was fixed as the most complete and recently available as of mid-2001 (1997-1999 ozone monitoring data and 1999-2000 PM2.5 data). More complete and more recent air quality data for ozone and fine particles (1999-2001 data) indicates some differences in the likely attainment status of some counties. Future analyses of Clear Skies will incorporate the most recent data available.

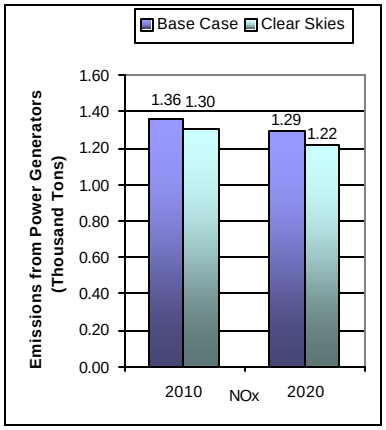
Changes in Emissions Under Clear Skies: Clear Skies is projected to result in significant emissions reductions from power generators by 2020.

- In Rhode Island, Clear Skies is projected to maintain NO_x emissions at current (2000) levels. (Power generators in Rhode Island did not emit any SO_2 or mercury emissions in 2000 and are not projected to under Clear Skies.)

Nationwide Emissions under Clear Skies in 2020

- SO_2 emissions from power generators are projected to be 3.9 million tons (a 65% reduction from 2000 levels).
- NO_x emissions are projected to be 1.7 million tons (a 67% reduction from 2000 levels).
- Mercury emissions are projected to be 18 tons (a 63% reduction from 2000 levels).
- At full implementation, the emission reductions would be 73% for SO_2, 67% for NO_x, and 69% for mercury.

Figure 1. *Existing Clean Air Act Regulations (base case[5]) vs. Clear Skies in Rhode Island in 2010 and 2020*



- Emissions rates in Rhode Island in 2010 and 2020:

Table 1. *Projected Emissions Rates in 2010 and 2020 in Rhode Island From Power Generators*

Year		SO_2	NO_x			Hg
		Coal	All	Coal	Gas	Coal
		lbs/MMBtu	lbs/MMBtu	lbs/MMBtu	lbs/MMBtu	lbs/TBtu
2010	Base Case	-	0.14	-	0.14	-
	Clear Skies	-	0.14	-	0.14	-
2020	Base Case	-	0.14	-	0.14	-
	Clear Skies	-	0.14	-	0.14	-

Costs: Nationwide, the projected annual costs of Clear Skies (in $1999) are $3.69 billion in 2010 and $6.49 billion in 2020.[6]

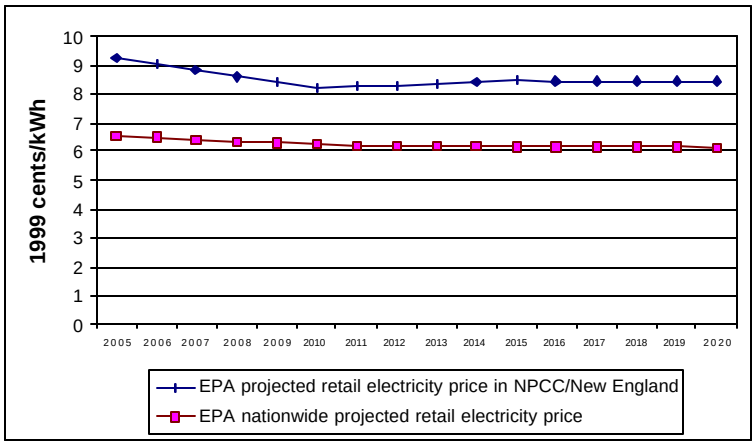
[5] The base case includes Title IV, the NO_x SIP call and State-specific caps in CT, MO and TX. It does not include mercury MACT in 2008 or any other potential future regulations to implement the current Clean Air Act.

[6] EPA uses the Integrated Planning Model (IPM) to project the economic impact of Clear Skies on the power generation sector. IPM disaggregates the power generation sector into specific regions based on properties of the electric transmission system, power market fundamentals, and regional environmental regulations. These regions do not conform to State or EPA region boundaries making some compliance options, such as dispatch, and associated costs impractical to differentiate at a State or Regional level.

Changes in Projected Retail Electricity Prices Under Clear Skies: Electricity prices in Rhode Island would not be affected by Clear Skies.

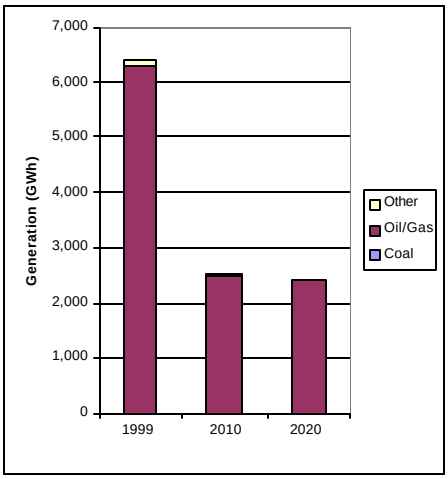
- In 1999, the average retail electricity price in Rhode Island was approximately 9.02 cents/kWh, which was above the average *national* retail price of approximately 6.66 cents/kWh.[7] As shown in Figure 3, retail prices in NPCC/New England (the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) region that contains Rhode Island) are projected to decrease but remain above the national average between 2005 and 2020.[8]

***Figure 2**. Projected Retail Electricity Prices in NPCC/New England under Clear Skies (2005-2020)*



Generation in Rhode Island Under Clear Skies: There are currently no coal-fired power plants in Rhode Island, nor are any projected through 2020.

***Figure 3**. Current and Projected Generation by Fuel Type in Rhode Island under Clear Skies (GWh)*[9]



Coal Production in Rhode Island: Rhode Island did not produce coal in 2000 and is not projected to produce coal under Clear Skies.

Major Generation Companies in Rhode Island: The six largest plants in the State -- each over 10 MW -- are gas-fired units. The major generation companies include: Narragansett Electric Company, Blackstone Valley Electric Company, Newport Electric Corporation, Pascoag Fire District, and Block Island Power Company.

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[7] Source: 1999 EIA data at http://www.eia.doe.gov/cneaf/electricity/page/fact_sheets/retailprice.html.

[8] State-level retail electricity prices vary considerably across the United States. Variation in prices can be caused by many factors including access to low cost fuels for generating power, State taxes, and the mix of power plants in the States.

[9] Source: 1999 data from EIA at http://www.eia.doe.gov/cneaf/electricity/st_profiles/rhode_island/ri.html#t5 (Table 5).