

Colorado Springs Independent

Letter To The Editor

Solar vs Coal

Colorado Springs Utilities solar electric rebate money ran out during the first few months of this year. No additional money was provided. CSU seems to think that solar electric should be able to stand on its own without subsidies, and that solar electric is not economical.

All conventional sources of electricity have been heavily subsidized for fifty years. So if solar electric, a clean renewable energy, is not subsidized, then the playing field is skewed as it has been for decades in favor of dirty nonrenewable energy sources.

The CAC/TAP citizens' advisory committee was unable to locate any study on the health effects of the CSU coal fired plants.

Clean coal is not at all clean, it is very dirty, it kills, injures and pollutes. **Just one drop of mercury can contaminate a 25-acre lake to the point where fish are unsafe to eat;** and the new technology that CSU is funding does not remove mercury and many other pollutants. So how much mercury is in CSU's reservoirs, and near the plants? Does anyone know? How many people have been killed and injured to date by the existing CSU coal plants, and how many will be killed and injured in the future? <http://www.sustainablecoast.org/dirtypowerplants2.html>

CAC/TAP's CSU (SU) 2008 EIRP Draft created a good start on addressing the economics of solar electric vs coal. Federal CO2 cap legislation and stiffer EPA regulations are likely to significantly increase the price of coal electricity.

FERC Chairman, Jon Wellinghoff says no new coal or nuclear plants are needed, renewables like solar and wind can do it all.

Last year CSU conducted a survey having to do with energy and the future. The results have never been released. Why?

(www.rockymtnsolar.com for details.)

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