

SEP 14 2023

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From:
To: [PSC Executive Director](#)
Subject: Case # 2022-00402
Date: Thursday, September 14, 2023 11:39:11 AM

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Commissioners Chandler, Hatton, and Regan,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment regarding Case # 2022-00402.

I have listened to most of these sessions and have a new perspective of how people in different areas of Kentucky view this subject.

I really do feel for the folks in Eastern KY, a drive through that region is all that is needed to see these folks are suffering.

Most of the coal companies have left and have taken the money with them.

The people are left with:

- No Job
- No Healthcare
- Polluted drinking water and no tax base left do anything about the contamination.
- An unemployment rate is roughly double the rest of the commonwealth.
- Destruction of the mountains and streams by literally blowing the tops off mountains to extract coal.
- Former coal mines left abandoned and un-reclaimed by the coal companies that ultimately the taxpayers will be responsible for cleanup.

It is clear the last thing the folks in Eastern Kentucky need is higher electric rates.

So how can we keep energy costs down?

Many people claim coal is both reliable and cheap. It may be reliable but it is certainly not cheap.

Data from the US energy Information administration, Lazard, and others show the opposite.

Solar, specifically “Solar PV–Thin Film Utility Scale” has a levelized cost of energy of between 28 and 37 dollars/MWh.

28 to 37 Dollars/MWH, and that is an unsubsidized cost considering building a new utility scale solar power plant.

By comparison the midpoint cost to just operate a fully depreciated coal plant is 45 dollars/MWh, and the cost for a NEW NG plant is estimated to be between 45 and 74 dollars/MWh.

As reported by the news site CleanTechnica ***“Renewable energy from wind and solar resources is cheaper than electricity from thermal generators powered by coal, oil, or methane gas. Period. Full stop.”***

Yes, solar is a somewhat intermittent source of energy, the sun does not shine brightly every day, however the sun does rise every morning and sets in the evening, If that stops we have even bigger problems.

We are at the beginning of the end of the fossil fuel age, the last thing we need to do is burden ratepayers with financing expensive new fossil fuel generating plants.

Aside from the demerit of cost, there are also the not so insignificant issues of air pollution, water pollution and GHG emissions.

Other countries are leading the way, In Europe Denmark is producing over 60% of their electricity from wind and solar, In South America Uruguay is at 44%, Ireland 35 and Germany 33.

The US, we are under 12% and Kentucky stands at a paltry 0.27%.

Today we have better options than building new GHG emitting power plants, and even better opportunities will likely come in the future.

Thanks for your time and consideration,

Josef Winkler
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