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Date: 11/2/2008 5:31 PM
Subject: Public input on SC energy policy
Attachments: Questions for Public comment SC PSC.doc

My views mirror those in the attached document, created by Andrew M. Streit.

I am currently using solar heating for my domestic hot water as well as my pool.

Additional comments by myself are in BLUE.

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Questions for Public Comment, South Carolina Public Service commission.

1. What action do you anticipate from the U.S. Congress as to climate change legislation? What impact may this have on South Carolina?

I expect the Congress to create a cap and trade market on CO2 emissions and a secondary market on all energy produced pollution that would incentivize clean energy production. This would severely impact SC which imports coal from Kentucky to burn in Coal based plants.

2. Does South Carolina have governmental resources available to study, plan, or act upon current or future energy policies? Are these resources sufficient? Are these resources appropriately empowered to act? Is there any overlapping of roles?

It has appeared in the past that the public utilities have had too much influence in prescribing public policy. This has not in of itself been bad for rates payers, however moving forward it would be nice to see the commission itself dictate the direction of public policy in reference to energy production for the State instead of looking to the lawyers for the utilities to provide information and direction. A RPS would benefit all of South Carolina.

3. How do we use electricity in South Carolina? How is our use different from other states, with respect to amount of use and type of use? What factors drive this usage? What can we do to better use our energy resources? What demographic or other factors prohibit or inhibit our ability to be more energy efficient?

We consume electricity at a higher rate than the national average. Without HVAC units life in the South would be difficult. With the advent of mass computing electrical consumption is slated to rise, SCE&G predicts 16% growth over ten years, with large scale adoption of hybrid electric cars this may be accurate or low. Enacting incentivized building code to REWARD energy conservation would dramatically reduce our consumption. South Carolina has some of the best sun in the country outside of the desert Southwest. The utilities are designed to sell energy not conserve it, this is their function. It is the legislators and Commissions function to protect the best interest of the rate payers. A Renewable Portfolio Standard would enable the Utilities to invest in clean energy production and create more in state jobs and invest in a smart grid which would reduce overall consumption and manage peak loads more effectively.

4. What types of renewable sources of energy are available in South Carolina? What is the expected cost to produce and transmit electricity from those resources?

Off coast wind power is being developed in Europe cost effectively, Germany has rolled out more solar than the USA, yet they have the solar irradiance of Alaska, South

Carolina has the potential to lead the East coast in Solar powered production. Please don't ever tell me Europeans are better at something that the USA. I lived there, it only applies to soccer, pastries and vacationing. A new Mexico company is developing Algae based biofuels, if we invested in this technology we could lead the country in sustainable, cost effective, job creating algae factories and distillation facilities. All we need is leadership and wise investment.

5. What types of non-native renewable resources are available to South Carolina? What is the expected cost to transmit electricity from those resources to South Carolina?

6. What programs that promote energy efficiency exist in our state? Are these programs affordable to all South Carolinians? Should they be affordable to all South Carolinians? Are energy efficiency measures a cost-effective alternative to the construction and operation of generation facilities? How should energy efficiency incentives be designed?

The utility based programs are underfunded and counter intuitive to their business plans. Government's job is to promote innovation and regulate free market activities to protect the consumer from unabated greed. Incentivized code changes for building and modifications to tax code that reward utilities for conservation are critical to promoting the right long term decisions by all. If a nuclear plants pre-construction costs are \$10 billion dollars you can expect the plant to come in at \$12-15 billion dollars. The operating costs over a 40 year span and the uncertainties of storing waste make conservation an important consideration. Nuclear plants may well need to be built but a true cost analysis is important.

7. The heavy use of concrete and steel to construct coal and nuclear generating facilities in China, India, and other developing nations and the importation of fuel needed to create energy from those facilities has increased the price of these raw materials and commodities beyond most projections. Is this level of growth sustainable? Will prices continue to be driven by this global demand? How will South Carolina be affected by this global demand?

World population growth is the underlying reason to become energy secure. Most people think of the middle east as a reason for energy independence. With the rise of India (1 billion) and China (1.3 billion) future generations face the prospect of fighting for resources, food, shelter and energy are the three major resources that will consume world attention in the next 100 years. We can follow behind and reel from the consequences or we can lead. I want South Carolina to quietly take the lead and take a position of strength and independence securing the well-being of all South Carolinians.

8. How has the current economic situation affected the projections for energy use?

Rust belt migration to the Carolina's will continue until either Detroit or the government tackles the issue that US domestic car makers react and are not proactive in consumer decision making. We can't all work for Toyota and LG we

have to find a way to make us more competitive in the 21st century economy. New energy investment could provide the backbone to a sustained period of job growth and infrastructural investment that propels South Carolina as the major Southeastern economy to harness 21st century capabilities.