

**DRECP Comments from Robert A. Vasseur, 43074 Somerset Rd.,
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As a long time employee in the energy industry, fossil, hydro, and nuclear, I have become alarmed by the tendency to think that renewable energy is somehow the only way to save the world from some fabricated future catastrophe. I am not a denier of climate change but I believe that far too much emphasis is being given to energy consumption's ultimate effects given the current level of technology available to alleviate the effects of fossil fuels and obviate the dangers from nuclear generation.

California currently enjoys the highest cost per kwh, and consequently the highest consumer power bills in the continental U.S., in my opinion the result of foolish utopian starry-eyed legislative pronouncements by all three branches of California government as well as meddling by the feds.

I was fortunate enough to spend most of my career in power generation, as a nuclear operator/technician in the U.S. Navy, and a conventional plant engineering supervisor, as a field engineer in hydro generation, as well as an advisor in solar thermal operations.

My last years in the industry were more involved in the administrative aspects of power plant maintenance software where I maintained an office at a power station from which I travelled frequently to most other fossil generating stations in the system.

Unfortunately, long after my retirement, that generating station was shut down because of lack of the ability to sell its output, which in megawatts and competitiveness was a couple of orders of magnitude higher than the solar thermal central receiver plant just down the road, as well as any subsequent solar facilities anywhere. The plant was also located on tiny fractions of real estate compared to the solar/wind facilities.

That plant was shut down by a company that saw much more advantage in not having to pay its expenses, and enjoying undeserved subsidies provided for intrusive and economically disastrous PV installations, with the government now allowing fiscally unsupportable generation to supplant more efficient and practical methods, in fact discriminating against more viable forms of generation, and at the same time burdening those already burdened with high taxes and who can little afford the luxuries of unsupportable ideology.

I've lived in the desert for nigh on to fifty years now. I love its remoteness, serenity, and beauty and hike its primordial expanses frequently with my two German Shepherds. I abhor the idea that this pristine wilderness, with civilized intrusions like retail plastic bags, dirt bikes, and wind/solar installations has already been irrevocably scarred.

Where there are solar plants out here, there is what I and many others consider the rape of the environment. Where vegetation is deprived of sunlight, and methodically eliminated because of the inconvenience in navigating for routine maintenance of these installations, where enormous tracts of natural vegetation, bird and insect-life are sacrificed for feel-good enormities.

I see no practical reason for either solar or wind generation either on rooftops or unsupportable expanses of desert wilderness until the more economical methods become outdated or are no longer economically competitive.