

Clotheslines and the DOE

We need clotheslines more than solar power plants. They are cheaper and really do what the power plants claim – use the sun in place of polluting fossil fuels. The Department of Energy, which did not exist before 1977 acts to abandon and neglect cost effective, traditional uses of the sun. The average family is to forget what works and, instead, crave new “modern” ways, chosen and subsidized by the Department of Energy. It is a trick. Shift power from the citizen to the state and its collaborators, now referred to as “stake holders,” but once recognized as cronies. What has happened to the citizen and his market place? It isn’t surprising that some describe this substitution of the well known and free with the roundabout and expensive as science, but who needs such science?

We are prompted to our vast energy appetites by recent gorging on caches of solar energy left by ages of photosynthesis. Oil, coal, gas fired in engines and power plants have aroused appetites not easy to satisfy. With refined but unreasonable demands we ask our sun to continue this feast, not out of storage, but as the sun shines. So far this means by concentration on boilers or conversion by photovoltaics. Maybe we can do this. Despite our foolishness, we are productive, enterprising and even lucky.

Yet, why do we cringe away from atomic power? How can our greed allow us to be so squeamish and ignorant about the surmountable hazards? After fumbling the atomic opportunity, can we expect to triumph with the solar? We can win either way, but must be ruthless opportunists ready to exploit good issuing from bad and discard bad resulting from good.

The solar path is wide open if we can disregard the Dept. of Energy and use the sun directly, unelectrically. We do know how. We have used skylights and clotheslines before. Let us love solar electricity individually, not by concocting false prices for our entire society. Individual action quickens corrections and avoids dismal mass mistakes and dishonesty which poisons society thereafter with the “winners” further bad habits.

The Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard is just such a mass mistake omitting from public debate non electric uses of the sun; gathering the many sympathetic to the sun in ignorant green ranks where they will accept inefficient uses, high prices and further manipulation. A single mistaken pose is silly, but ranks in the same posture as arranged by RPS are frightening.

Do we never learn? How can government presume to benefit their citizens by centrally managing the economy? The RPS individual is free to conserve, to exploit numerous solar energy uses, both electric and non- electric. Our engineers are successful with improved fluorescent light, LEDs, better electric motors for washing machines, refrigerators and pumps, more efficient computers and TV sets. One can enjoy convenience as he consumes less.

When electricity becomes expensive its market will shrink. Non-electric uses of the sun will come forth. Clothes lines, day lighting, passive heating, solar water heaters all bypass the Department of Energy’s solar electricity.

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