

COAL POWER IS NOT COOL

As residents of the Mojave Desert, where fresh water already is a scarce resource, we should be especially concerned about impact of coal power plants on our supply of water. Already in Clark County, there is not enough water for drinking, bathing, and the other necessities of modern living. Did you know that 2.6 billion gallons or more of water will be used each year at the proposed White Pine County coal plant near Great Basin National Park Nevada to run its turbine? Coal power might seem cheap and theoretically limitless, but in the desert, when our drinking faucets go empty, we will realize that the true cost of coal is not cheap.

We also need to realize that coal power is the largest contributor of thousands of tons of air toxins such as lead, sulfur, mercury, cadmium, CO₂, and acid rain, etc. The smog produced by coal power disrupts plant growth and reduces crop production. Coal power is the largest contributor to man-made carbon dioxide emissions in the air, which of course is one of the main culprits of global warming. If that is not enough what is the cost of lowering the IQ of downwind children who grow up breathing lead air from these generators and have no meaningful future.

After the White Pine Plant is built, it will need feed stocks of coal to run the turbines. It will burn 8 million tons per year or 21 thousand tons each day. Coal is currently \$70 per ton, therefore ratepayers will have to pay \$560 million per year for coal to feed the turbines for each year forever. Those who believe in renewable energy on the other hand will tell you that it costs more up front to build solar or wind turbine energy, but in the long run, it will be cheaper. The cost of acquiring solar or wind each day is ZERO. Further, Disciples of renewable energy also will say that it costs more upfront, because the labor to produce the solar panels or the wind turbines, and the human effort to install all these energy farms costs money, but what is wrong with that. Isn't America undergoing a severe financial crisis partly because we willingly shipped our manufacturing jobs overseas looking for cheap labor? Building clean solar or wind power plants here in Nevada that put Americans to work sounds like something smart for a change.

Sincerely,

Kermitt Waters

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