

Kathryn Cowdery:

Regarding the request for comments for the EPA proposed Carbon Rules:

My comments are simple. I read the posted comments and they appear to be from people that are knowledgeable about this issue – I am not. I only know of this from an article in the Tampa Bay Times on Wednesday, 8/6/14 where it was stated that this decision has been very poorly announced by limiting the distribution of the announcement so that few would be aware of it. One wonders why such an effort was made.

The article also states that Florida's coal-fired plants emit more pollution than all but 2 other States. That tells me that there is a lot of room for improvement. The article further states that Florida households consume 40% more electricity than the U.S. average. That suggests that there is a lot of room for improvement. One of the comments posted suggests that the utilities in Florida are a monopoly and control not only the grid but also the delivery. I agree with their point that it would be beneficial to all if other forms of energy (hopefully renewable sources) would have access to the market on an even basis compared to the current companies that are controlling.

I further understand that the electric companies are petitioning you to allow them to reduce their own projected reductions in carbon emissions. That strongly suggests that they want to reduce their costs to improve their profits while keeping rates a bit lower rather than taking on an important problem and working earnestly to reduce carbon emissions. I would think the appropriate thing here would be to soundly reject their request.

In your note you state that it is impossible for Florida to achieve the projections made by the EPA. Am I to believe that the EPA is unable to take budgeting and appropriateness into account? If it is a budget problem, why don't you instead ask for an increase in budget so you can achieve the levels suggested? I see that the Governor is the one that appoints the members of the PSC. Is the Governor the one that you would ask for more money? If so I can see why you would be discouraged. The Governor has stated that he is not a scientist, so how could he possibly know if climate change is real – even if there is ample evidence that it exists right here in Florida? With the incredible amount of energy that is capable of being harnessed just by the sun in Florida, it seems that we should be well on our way of exploiting this energy source. But I understand that we are well behind. Why is that?

Thanks,

Roger Clark

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