

## **The Current Absurdity of Renewable Portfolio Standards**

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Years ago the nation was up in arms over the possibility of running out of oil. It all began in the late 1950s when a colleague and mentor of mine M. King Hubbert quite wrongly predicted that by the late 1960s the world would reach a point where it began to use more oil in a year than it discovered to add to its known reserves. He called it PEAK OIL. From that point on he predicted that we would be on the descent to a day when we would run out of petroleum to fuel the world. When in the late 60s we were still finding more oil than we were using his supporters simply moved the day of reckoning forward by a decade and when in the late 70s his peak oil theory still did not develop they moved it a decade again, and then again till we come today when the concept of peak oil and gas can only be considered many, many centuries away.

In the past few years oil discoveries in places like the Bakken Field in North Dakota now beginning to be seen in Montana and South Dakota, huge finds in the Gulf of Mexico, and the known reserves in the desolate portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve, and the gigantic reserves in Canadian tar sands, no longer allow a doomsday prediction for oil in the near or far future.

Now couple that with the motherload of ubiquitous natural gas made possible by new drilling techniques in vast layers of shale rock being found all over the globe, we are all slowly waking up to the fact that the world is awash in fossil fuel which gets cleaner by the day as the technology for its use continues to improve. Add to that the fact that "coal" always known to be able to supply us with electricity for nearly a thousand years can be burned when desired as cleanly as natural gas.

And of course we have long known the world can never run out of nuclear fuel because it is far too prolific in the crust of the earth.

So why are we still punishing the public by dictating the use of expensive electricity brought from physically hopeless energy sources such as wind and solar that can never be harnessed economically because they are simply too dispersed, requiring too much land and equipment to harvest. One would think that the billions of dollars already invested in wind and solar energy, which has achieved little or nothing in the way of greater economic value or efficiency would convince the public of its value only for those off the electric grid with no other alternative.

It should also be common knowledge that no amount of wind or solar energy can replace any fossil fuel power plants as they must remain as 100% operating back up energy for when the wind does not blow or the sun does not shine.

A decade ago when people really believed that increasing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere might possibly have a negative impact on mankind, (we actually know the opposite to be true today), and when we thought we might run out of petroleum and natural gas many states dictated that every energy company develop renewable sources of energy like wind and solar as a part of their portfolio to insure that one day the lights will not go out. They made this possible through heavy government subsidies making money for all developers who could get in on the act.

The facts today dictate that there should be absolutely no subsidies for any energy source what so ever as prolific available supplies mentioned above make this a perfect time to allow the free market to take over and show how perfectly it can work at this time and place.

Renewable energy standards today, completely ignore the wonderful energy developments of recent years and are causing state legislators to place their heads in the sand and bypassing the public's opportunity to cash in on our good fortune which will last for centuries to come.

The requirement today that despite the munificence of abundant inexpensive natural gas , oil , coal and nuclear power, we create a situation equivalent to telling the construction industry that regardless of its ability to excavate earth with high tech diesel powered equipment they must do a portion of each excavation with picks and hand shovels .

Perhaps the concept of renewable energy was once a game effort to live best within our means. Advancing technology however in all other energy fields has happily made it unnecessary to punish the public while enriching developers living off of our tax largesse.

Like it or not within a decade government subsidies for wind will end. At that time there will not be enough income to maintain Kansas's wind turbines, which are high maintenance structures. The state will then be stuck with very expensive "Lawn Sculptures" and no funding to ever remove them.