

## DOCKETED

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*Comment Received From: Wayne Roth*

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## **Reject the Puente Power Project**

Dear Submit your public comment,

This is a project whose time has pasted. It is imperative that we get completely off of fossil fuel energy ASAP, not in 20 years or 30 years but in a decade, 10 years. Below is a letter I sent to EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt.

Please read it carefully. Our children's and our grandchildren's lives for THOUSANDS of generations depend on the world getting off fossil fuels NOW.

Let's do our part.

Administrator Scott Pruitt  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington DC 20460 May 8, 2017

The EPA's position on Climate Change

Dear Administrator Pruitt

I respect that you are a man of integrity with a passion to promote business to better our economy and protect national security. These are admirable goals in the spirit of putting America first. Your position on our climate change problem is that it is mostly caused by natural processes, human influence is minimal, so having the EPA focus on climate change is a waste of time and resources and interferes with protecting other important environmental concerns and increasing our economic prosperity and national security.

Unfortunately your assumptions about man-made or Anthropogenic Climate Change are not correct.

Senator Gaylord Nelson put it succinctly, The economy is a wholly owned subsidiary of the environment, not the other way around. (1) This makes environmental stability the foundation of economic prosperity, and national security. It was only during the Holocene, the last 12,000 years when the climate was remarkably stable that humans found their footing and civilization took hold and began to flourish.

Climate is the envelope in which all other environmental conditions and processes have to function. It [Anthropogenic Climate Change] is the most difficult problem that civilization has ever created.

--John Holdren former President of the AAAS; former Science Adviser to the Obama Adm. (2)

A simple analysis quickly illuminates how serious Anthropogenic Climate Change is.

Two of the bedrock data sources of climatology are the Antarctic ice core data set and the Keeling curve. (3) Combined, they show us how carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) has varied naturally in the recent geologic past and how our current carbon dioxide emissions mostly from the burning of fossil fuels are increasing the CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere at a rate far beyond any natural emissions rate seen in the geologic record. Tyndall's experiments in 1859 proved that CO<sub>2</sub> was a potent greenhouse gas (GHG) that is, as CO<sub>2</sub> increases (or diminishes) in the atmosphere, global mean

temperature will increase (or diminish).

When the planet came out of the depths of the last ice age roughly 18,000 to 12,000 years ago, ice core data shows that natural processes increased the atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> from about 190ppmvCO<sub>2</sub> to 280ppmvCO<sub>2</sub>, a 90ppmvCO<sub>2</sub> change over 6,000 years. (4) During that 6,000 years, the global temperature rose about 6C, about 1C/1,000 years. (5) This rate of change is a fast pace in geologic time. Geologic changes are normally measured in millions of years, not thousands.

In the last 60 years from 1958 to 2017 the Keeling curve shows we have added roughly another 90ppmvCO<sub>2</sub>. (6) That's a 100 times faster than the natural fast geologic rate of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions coming out of the last ice age. Global temperature has increased about 0.8C in these 60 years. Compare 0.8C/60 years to 1C/1,000 years. The current global temperature change rate is about 13 times faster!

In the last two years we have added about 3ppmvCO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere (7). If we just maintain this rate (more likely it will increase unless the world chooses to quickly make deep drastic cuts in our carbon emissions) we would add another 90ppmvCO<sub>2</sub> in the next 30 years doubling our rate to 200 times faster than the natural fast CO<sub>2</sub> emissions rate exiting the last ice age. How serious is this 100 to 200 times faster CO<sub>2</sub> emissions rate?

It's horrifying.

There is no period in the geologic record that shows a carbon emissions rate this fast, not just in the last million years, but in the entire 4.5 billion years of earth's existence. (8) Yes, there have been times when CO<sub>2</sub> levels and atmospheric temperatures were much higher, but it took millions of years to reach those levels giving life on earth time to adapt. Our unrestrained use of fossil fuel has put us and the planet in completely uncharted territory. Only the vast inertia of the world's oceans which have absorbed about 93% of the heat our greenhouse gases have trapped (9), and about 26% of our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions themselves (10), have kept us from experiencing the full force of these rapid atmospheric changes, but this inertial lag has only lulled us into false confidence.

If the last ice age rate of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions was say 50mph, we have now jammed down on the gas and are accelerating toward a climate speed of 5,000 to 10,000mph. When will the climate engine explode? We're already exceeded the redline a 100 times over. The climate crisis we are precipitating will likely last roughly 100,000 years. (11) What a god awful long train wreck civilization is heading for. Numerous scientific sources calculate that we could see a global temperature increase of 2C to 6C by 2100. This would be a global temperature increase rate roughly 20 to 60 times faster than the ice age exit rate of 1C/1,000 years. This rocket rise in global temperature will lead to almost unimaginable levels of planetary climate chaos and instability. (12)

For the US and World Economy to continue to thrive, every nation, including the United States, led by the EPA, must mobilize together to confront Anthropogenic Climate Change by rapidly ending our addiction to fossil fuels. If we do not, we don't just jeopardize our economy and our national security, we risk the crumbling of civilization and even the very survival of our species.

At the initial Risky Business Project press conference Robert Rubin said climate change is the existential issue of our age. Hank Paulson said, "A huge take away here is that a cautious approach, a business as usual approach is radical risk taking." (13) In the Q&A of his 2014 Guggenheim Memorial Lecture, Dr. Steven Chu, Nobel Laureate and former Secretary of Energy said bluntly, 4, 5, 6 degrees (Celsius) is really non-adaptable bad. (14)

We cannot afford to ignore Anthropogenic Climate Change.

With respect,

Wayne Roth

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I have closely followed our climate change issue since 2007, attending scores of Precourt Seminars and other lectures at Stanford University, The Long Now Foundation, and other Bay area venues.

1. Gaylord Nelson - Beyond Earth Day: Fulfilling the Promise Wisconsin Press Nov. 2002
2. John Holdren keynote speech at Climate Change Town Hall AAAS San Francisco Feb. 18, 2007  
[http://www.aaas.org/news/press\\_room/climate\\_change/mtg\\_200702/](http://www.aaas.org/news/press_room/climate_change/mtg_200702/)
3. <https://scripps.ucsd.edu/programs/keelingcurve/>(Includes ice core graphs - 800,000 years)
4. .ibid.
5. EPICA temperature record - <http://tinyurl.com/nxfabu6>
6. <https://scripps.ucsd.edu/programs/keelingcurve/>(Includes ice core graphs - 800,000 years)
7. Wash-Post article Pieter Tans from NOAA - <http://tinyurl.com/kvndedt>
8. Don DePaolo Stanford Lecture - <http://tinyurl.com/zqvk5sb>
9. Ocean heat content - <http://tinyurl.com/ogt56ge>
10. Ocean CO2 storage - <https://www.co2.earth/global-co2-emissions>
11. Philip Gingerich <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2011/10/hothouse-earth/kunzig-textpg.1>
- James Hansen [http://www.columbia.edu/~jeh1/2012/20120917\\_GroverNorquist.pdf](http://www.columbia.edu/~jeh1/2012/20120917_GroverNorquist.pdf) pg.10
12. Six Degrees by Mark Lynas (2008) is a deeply researched look at how raising the global temperature degree by degree will wrench apart climate stability.
13. <http://riskybusiness.org/2014/06/18/risky-business-press-conference-video/>
14. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4vtJWKF3E8>(1hr:10min to 1:15:43)

Sincerely, Wayne Roth