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Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the California Energy Commission Advanced Generation meeting (Docket No. 09-IEP-1M) on 8/10/2009 and to provide comments.

My wife and I live just outside of Placerville, Ca on about 11 acres. As we live in the county (El Dorado), not the city, we do not have city services (water, sewer, garbage, etc.). PG&E provides us with electrical service. I became very interested in the details of the electrical market(s) and energy technologies after a few rather large PG&E bills during the summer of 2005- we got to experience the full economic impact of the greater than 300% baseline electricity charges. I located the CEC's website while doing my research into alternative energy sources. The site provided the information I needed to specify a 6.12 kw PV system at our homestead. I experienced firsthand the system design and integration issues that were discussed at the meeting as limiting the introduction of emerging technology. In our case I had enough technology development and integration background to take on the system design and integration roles personally- I felt comfortable in taking on the role primarily from the information I obtained from the CEC. During my corporate career I was responsible for a few technology development efforts. I was also responsible for providing technical and financial input to our manufacturing strategy.

Comment #1 Response to "Additional research opportunities which should be considered as part of the PIER AG program."

Currently a few nuclear power plants are operating in the state and we import about 30% (2008) of our electricity into the state. As the rest of the nation and world seem to moving forward with nuclear power for electrical power generation I suggest that the Advanced Generation group provides some resources in the near term to evaluate the more recent technological developments in the field. This would then allow the AG group to rate (as was demonstrated on page 2 in the Advanced Generation Program Key Focus Chart) the different alternative nuclear power options.

Comment #2 (Data summaries, and decision making)

I would like to see the ratings in the "Typical Attributes (and Typical Applications)" charts move from an OK (green check), marginal (check) and Bad (X) categorization to a numerical approach for each attribute (ie 1 to 10, or 1 to 100). I have found this approach beneficial for decision making especially once when one starts putting a weighting factor on the different attributes.

Comment #3 (Climate Change and Advanced Energy Generation)

The CEC's goal to develop 7 mile square modeling zones is to be commended.

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Comment #4 (cost and timing of carbon accounting)

California, through the efforts of the CEC, and Air Resources Board, has become the national leader in addressing the environmental impacts of energy sources. The Federal government is moving towards the policy making approach of California on auto emission standards (and mileage), energy generation accounting for CO₂, etc..

What worries me at the moment is that California's have paid a fairly high price to be the leader to date (as measured by our utility prices, etc.). I am concerned that if CA moves forward with a cap and trade (or straight carbon tax) system independent of a national system we will drive the prices of energy up another 50%. If we adapt this approach on our own, independent of a national system, then the burden on our business will become great enough that they will consider moving out of state rather than growing, or maintaining, their business in CA.

When I provided input for my firm's economic modeling of manufacturing and distribution costs a few years back (2001), CA was at a slight disadvantage compared to other states (nations). That slight disadvantage has grown in the last 8 years. As Toyota considers their options in regards to the NUMI plant in the Bay Area I guarantee you that they are very well aware of costs and their alternatives. Let's not make our non-competitive (when speaking of national or international) energy cost structure any worse than it already is. Therefore, I strongly, recommend that CA does NOT start any carbon accounting system independent of a national system.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to attend the meeting and for allowing me comment on the reports presented.

Regards,

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