Comments to the California Energy Commission
On
2008 Integrated Energy Policy Report
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1. Electric Powered and Hybrid automobiles. It is not clear from the material presented that new transportation system requirements for electric power have been adequately considered. Automobiles account for a substantial amount of carbon emissions, and a shift to electric power for cars made possible by new battery development is a major opportunity to reduce green house gas (GHG) emissions.

2. Common sense confirmation of energy costs is needed. I suggest that the CEC begin to tabulate data annually, on the cost of electric power in California and compare it to other states, by tabulating the retail prices obtained by the major electric power suppliers, such as Southern California Edison, Pacific Gas and Electric, Los Angeles Water and Power District, San Diego Gas and Electric, and perhaps a few others.

This would be compared annually to the cost of power in Washington State, in Oregon, and perhaps a few others, possibly Tennessee, Texas, Florida, and North Carolina, tabulating the retail power costs to the consumer provided by the major electric power and gas suppliers. A study could be conducted to show what states have similar hydro power, wind power, and solar power attractiveness. **The carbon discharge per capita in different states might be an interesting figure of merit, especially when cars and agriculture are taken into account.**

Something like this is needed because, in addition to confusing nomenclature, there is often confusing arithmetic in showing what options save money, and benefit the consumer. It has been easy in the past to embed what amounts to an energy tax in the rate base of the major power companies. The subsidies to various energy options are obscured while the options are under development, but sometimes become too big to afford when a significant fraction of the market is required to use the technology. These subsidies often amount to a hidden regressive tax

For example, is my battery powered electric car using the equivalent of $10 per gallon gasoline when the electricity that fuels it is made with solar power? If it is such a high price, we need to consider other alternatives.

3. More consideration of nuclear power is required. Particularly if electric power to the transportation sector is taken into account, the contribution of nuclear power to providing low cost energy for automobiles, buses, and other transportation modes cannot be ignored. Nuclear power because it is capital intensive, will support the re-establishment of steel mills, piping fabricators, and high tech construction technology. These kinds of jobs are wh the at are required to get America back on the right track. Because of the significant investment in mills and foundaries, these jobs are difficult to outsource. The decline in the purchasing power of the dollar means that

China and India could find it attractive to buy various high quality high tech components for their nuclear energy programs.