

Howard, Jeff (DEEP)

From: Gary Bent <gdbent@earthlink.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2015 8:32 PM
To: DEEP ClimateChange
Subject: comments on ADM working group on Oct. 14

1. Many people pay an extra fee to purchase 50% or 100% renewable energy. How many people out of all consumers is that? Is it enough to significantly count on emissions being cut? Since most of this renewable energy probably comes from out of state, why is consumption-based emissions larger than generator-based emissions especially since CT is a net exporter of electricity?

2. In talking about life cycle emissions, I can see that trying to count emissions on where the oil and gas is produced does not make sense. However, there is natural gas venting and leakage from transmission and distribution gas lines. This is occurring in CT and should be accounted for. DEEP could regulate these leakages and reduce one million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year.

3. The existing emissions from natural gas already exceed the 80% reduction needed by 2050; so why is CT planning to expand natural gas use?

4. I think I have finally figured out all the acronyms the group talks in. REC is renewable energy credit; RPS is renewable portfolio standard; RGGI is regional greenhouse gas Right?

5. Someone said you need energy for factories when the sun is not shining. This is perpetuating the myth that you can only get energy from sun when the sun is shining. This person has never heard of energy storage. Batteries are too expensive and inefficient for this now; however there is a lot of research on improving batteries for this. There are several inexpensive and efficient ways to store energy. You need excess solar capacity. You then use the excess power to move water uphill to a holding tank or a dammed reservoir. When the sun does not shine, you release the water to generate hydroelectric electricity. Of course this is infrastructure you would use with a large solar power plant. As second method is using excess solar capacity to send high pressure air into an underground cavern. When the sun does not shine, you release the high pressure air to run a turbine to generate electricity.

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6. Someone mentioned starting with a lesser goal on reductions and then increasing the reductions. All scientific studies show that on a world-wide basis it is far cheaper to make deep cuts in emissions soon and gradually increase them. CT is a small actor on this stage, but we should model the correct behavior for other states. We should also take into account that the costs from global warming will increase if we are slow to act.

Sincerely,
Gary Bent