

**Sulphur Springs Valley  
Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
E-01575a-09-0453  
E-01575a-08-0328  
In Opposition**



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**Antonio Gill**

**From:**  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 24, 2010 10:09 AM  
**To:** Pierce-Web  
**Subject:** Let us Build a Model Community for Renewable Energy

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Arizona Corporation Commission

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**ORIGINAL**

23 June 2010

Dear Commissioner Pierce:

Gary Locke, the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, gave a speech this year in Washington D.C. where he described a solution to one of the biggest problems we face, the ability to meet America's growing energy demands by using more renewable energy. According to Locke, "If we can accomplish this we will simultaneously create good, family-wage American jobs and provide a real chance to seriously address the causes of global climate change."

Already 11 percent of American energy is from clean sources. Solar and wind power are the fastest growing sectors. President Obama signed a Recovery Act that included \$80 billion in clean energy investments that will double America's renewable energy-generating capacity in three years, while creating thousands of good jobs.

Many, many communities across America have taken up the challenge and are doing it.

The City of Wilmington, Delaware, has a stimulus package-backed solar power project that will prove how cash-strapped U.S. cities can generate renewable energy savings without spending taxpayer dollars.

Wilmington's project will reduce electricity consumption by 2.8 million kilowatt hours a year (enough to power 260 homes annually) and decrease carbon dioxide emissions by approximately 4.4 million pounds per year (comparable to taking 380 cars off the roads). In addition, it's expected to create or sustain more than 80 jobs!

Excel Energy, Colorado's largest electric utility, has a project near Grand Junction, Colorado to determine how solar power integrated into an active coal power plant can reduce coal consumption and lower emissions. Using technology that is already proven at large-scale installations in Spain and North Africa, an Excel spokesperson says "you can add solar power without adversely affecting the power plant - you're just tying into the existing system. It's low cost and it's an efficient use of energy." Excel hopes that they will be able to provide 10 percent or more of the energy input to the plant from solar.

Anheuser Busch, the maker of Budweiser and the largest brewery in the United States, is taking a leadership role in employing alternative energy technology in its 12 breweries in the U.S. The company's suitably titled Bio-Energy Recovery System (BERS) process uses anaerobic digestion to convert most of the brewer's nutrient-rich wastewater to produce methane, which in turn is used to heat boilers. AB's goal is to achieve at least 15 percent renewable energy use in all of its 12 U.S. breweries by the end of 2010. The company's Houston, Texas brewery uses a combination of alternative energy technologies which provide 70 percent of the brewer's energy needs at its Houston facility.

Lamar Advertising Co will be converting some 1,370 billboards throughout Florida to renewable energy. The \$12.5 million project will place solar or wind power on billboards throughout the state.

The U.S. Department of Energy will invest more than \$200 million over five years to expand and accelerate the development, commercialization, and use of solar and water power technologies throughout the United States.

Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation is installing a 158 kW solar PV system at the Fox Studios Lot in Century City, California.

Ted Turner and Southern Company, a major utility company serving the U.S. Southeast, is building large scale solar photovoltaic projects in the U.S. Southwest where solar resources are currently most efficient and in demand.

The list goes on. But, it does not include SSVEC or the Mountain Empire.

Recently SSVEC was recognized as the number one cooperative in the United States for having the most solar watts installed per customer. This is an admirable achievement and makes one think that SSVEC should be listed among the innovative and forward thinking communities cited above. Unfortunately, the widespread implementation of renewable energy in SSVEC's territory was not *because* of SSVEC's actions. It was *despite* them.

Other parts of the United States are actively implementing and integrating renewable energy instead of extending and expanding existing coal power generating systems. Not so for our utility cooperative, SSVEC.

The United States government has set expansion of renewable energy as a national goal. This is also the goal of the Mountain Empire. Unfortunately it is not the goal of our cooperative. SSVEC has not followed suit.

SSVEC members in the Mountain Empire are working hard to establish their community as a model rural community for renewable energy. They are doing it *without* the help of their cooperative. In fact, as evidenced by this hearing today, the cooperative is the member's biggest adversary.

On Tuesday the ACC must decide if SSVEC should be allowed to install a 69kV line at a cost of \$14+ million or should instead be asked to find an alternative that uses renewable energy. Other communities have been able to find technologies and methodologies that move them away from coal and toward renewable. Why cannot our cooperative? Why does our cooperative ignore us?

I strongly urge the ACC to deny the request to immediately install the high voltage line. I respectfully request that the ACC challenge SSVEC to identify an alternative using renewable energy. Many other communities are doing. Solving problems is what engineers do.

As the only oversight organization in the state with authority over the actions of cooperatives, I plead with you to consider our community and our goal ... to become a model rural community for renewable energy. Please let us achieve this goal. Delay the 69kV line.

Sincerely,

Member SSVEC  
Patagonia Resident

**Deborah Fain**  
President



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