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Mark

I would like to comment on the preliminary draft forecast of fuel prices for the Sixth Power Plan.

Natural gas has unique properties that need to be considered in any policy determination. It has a high energy content and is easy to distribute via underground pipelines and it burns cleanly. This makes it a great fuel for home heating, cooking, and hot water generation. It is more efficient than electricity for these tasks.

Natural gas should not be considered for electrical power generation. That is a waste of a clean burning fuel that can easily be distributed. The additional demand for natural gas, should new natural gas power stations be built, will cause the price to be higher. It would be far better to locate new power generators at the site of coal deposits. Then economies of scale and newer technologies can be used to cleanly burn the coal. The generated electricity can easily be distributed.

I also believe nuclear power needs to be given much higher priority. A nuclear power plant only needs water for cooling and does not generate more global warming pollution.

Burning oil to generate electrical power is also a bad idea. Those power stations should be mothballed and replaced with either coal or nuclear. Oil is best used for transportation needs.

Several years ago there was a proposal to build a natural gas power plant near Madras and ship the electrical power to California. What a bad idea! First, the gas could just as easily be piped to California and used there to generate the power. Second, there are several large coal deposits in Southern Utah that should be used to generate the electrical needs of California or new nuclear power plants should be built.

In conclusion, natural gas is best used for home heating. Let the needs of electrical power be generated by hydro, coal or nuclear stations. The Sixth Power Plan needs to include recommendations to the industry and governmental agencies about when the use of natural gas is appropriate and when it is not.

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