

As a professional with over thirty years experience in the energy, power generation, and renewable energy industries I understand that you will receive many opinions on the states energy plan. Please consider:

* The documented experience of other states in regard to rate impacts arising from renewable energy implementation. For example:

<http://www.midwestenergynews.com/2011/11/02/minnesota-utilities-report-mixed-rate-impact-from-renewable-standard/>

Note that those utilities that experienced rate increase due to RPS could have done a better job of securing lower cost renewable power supplies

* Strong evidence that conservation and efficiency (especially industrial efficiency) offer the best financial return on investment. Stimulating conservation is , in large part, a public education effort which costs little.

* The presence of the states largest utilities on the Alliance Board results in predictable positions . Renewable energy generation , especially when developed and owned by private sector supplying utilities, represents a decentralizing presence which is traditionally resisted by utilities.

* Benefits of solar may be marginal due to capacity cost and low capacity factor, and solar does not provide much in the way of job creation once in operation..

* Small hydro should be an important resource in Idaho. Competitive power pricing, higher capacity factors than solar, and usually wind, create construction jobs though not especially so once in operation.

* Biomass could be most important as it offers competitive power pricing., high capacity factors, high employment during construction, and high employment once in operation (in the power plant and in the field supplying fuel)

* Wind speaks for itself (low capacity factor, can be competitively priced supply, few jobs during operation).

* Geothermal , one operating, offers numerous advantages but carries high development cost and risk.

* With respect, AARP's position in these matters is consistent and predictable across the country, and its view offers no rational advantage for anyone other than AARP's constituents (which a small fraction of the state's population).

Foresight and patience in achieving results are virtues especially hard to sell in todays political and economic environment, but are virtues critical to future security and comfort.

Regards,

Craig Murphy