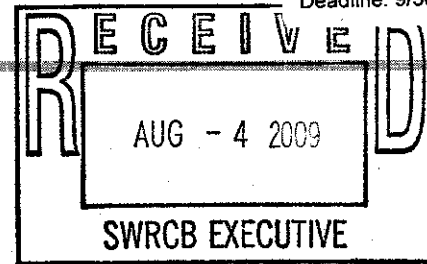


commentletters - Comment Letter - OTC Policy"



From: <f.brandt@att.net>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov >
Date: Tuesday, August 04, 2009 4:42 PM
Subject: Comment Letter - OTC Policy"

I have just been on the web, listening to the public comment portion of the CEC workshop on once through cooling for power plants.. I had a comment for this meeting which was ignored by the CEC. One of the CEC commissioners made an interesting comment to the effect that the SWRCB has set the rules and they must be implemented. I finally realized that my comments have been directed to the wrong agency. The following is my public comment to the CEC and now to the SWRCB.

COMMENT LETTER-OTC POLICY

8/5/09 Comment by Private Citizen Frank Brandt

I have just read CEC Document CEC 200-2009-013-SD which is to be discussed at this workshop. As a tax and rate payer I am aghast. Has anyone run a real cost-benefit analysis of this project? Where is it? Do you realize that it is the ratepayers that will be stuck with the bill? It is nice to pretend that the IOU stockholders will be liable for the bill, but that is not true. I believe from reading some of the documents from the previous workshop that this project started as a means to shut down the state's nuclear plants. Someone then realized that this would cause a major disruption in power production and greenhouse gas mitigation so fossil plants were included.. Now there is the implication that AB32 renewables will save everything. That is pure pie in the sky analysis. There is no way that an intermittent, unreliable energy source can substitute for reliable 24/7 energy sources

I take issue with the people who studied the effects of warm cooling water on the aquatic life near power plant discharge points. Will they explain why fishermen cast their lines in the warm water discharge at river and seawater power plants? If there is an aquatic flora and fauna desert there the fishermen would avoid rather than favor them. I suspect there may be change in the nature of aquatic flora and fauna caused by the warm water discharge but as a ratepayer I want to know if it is worth spending million of dollars for a cooling tower to avoid an insignificant change?

Water vapor is much more effective ghg than CO2. How much global warming will be caused by the millions of tons of water vapor delivered to the atmosphere by cooling towers? Where will seaside plants get millions of gallons of fresh water to feed their cooling towers? Evaporating seawater in cooling towers will be fraught with high cost problems. The efficiency of seawater plants will be adversely effected by cooling towers. Who will pay for this?.

An attack by the state on nuclear power plants has evolved into an attack by the state on the ratepayers. Somehow this whole project has to be stopped.

Frank Brandt
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