

From: Peter Eckhoff [peckhoff@nc.rr.com]
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To: Chief Clerk of the Commission,
State of North Carolina

From: Peter Eckhoff
9 Sedley Place
Durham, NC 27705

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I am reminded each day that we live on a planet with finite resources. I find it unsettling when I read that over the past 10 years the cost of finding crude oil is rising at 11% per year while personal incomes are rising at 2% per year. Also, the major US oil companies have cut back on their CAPEX spending which is like a farmer cutting back on clearing land and planting seed. CAPEX dollars are used to fund future oil (and gas) production. Natural gas is in a similar state but not as far down the road as crude oil production. (Fracking is expensive and the cost of natural gas is below sustained fracking costs.) I've been told that coal production in the southern Appalachians has peaked. It will not be long until fossil fuels are relatively scarce per capita and albeit, more expensive. What are the alternatives? Often named are solar, nuclear, geothermal, wind, biomass, and tidal.

Geothermal, wind, and tidal are limited in this state. Nuclear has a problem with radioactive waste and massive capital expenditures for plant. Biomass asks the questions: "Do you want to eat or drive your car." and "Do you want smoke filled air during winter or breathable air?" This leaves solar as a possible source of useable energy. While winter time production of solar energy is problematic, it can offset the negatives of burning biomass for heat while awaiting more efficient solar cells. With escalating costs to find and produce fossil fuels, I am for developing solar installations while we still have capital and good to so-so payback values versus placing an economic hiatus on solar installations until the cost of fossil fuels rise to the point where capital expenditures for solar installations negate any reasonable payback values. Therefore, I am against any legislation and rate adjustments that will curtail development of solar energy. This will also aid in fostering development of more efficient photovoltaic cells and better energy storage mediums.