



## Letters to the Editor

### Not Much Power

In The New American of March 4, 2019, the article entitled “The Renewable Energy Scam” criticizes the alleged “renewable energy” of solar and wind power from the standpoint that “the sun doesn’t always shine, and the wind doesn’t always blow,” and for various “energy credit schemes” used. Actually, there’s a much more fundamental reason why we shouldn’t invest heavily in them for large-scale dependence: Basic science points out that the “renewable energies” of solar and wind are just too ineffective — and environmentally costly — to pursue further for large-scale use.

Both are too “low density” in nature to be effective for large-scale use and dependence. Their “low density” requires so much use of land and other resources to manufacture the equipment and put it to use to “harvest” electricity and obtain significant output that it makes them extremely inefficient and costly. Those resources could be much better used for other, more efficient power sources — particularly nuclear — for long-term and large-scale purposes.

I’ve been looking at solar and wind from the standpoint of possible implementation in my own housing for 45 years, since before buying my first house, revisiting their “state of the art” frequently. So I became very aware of how their low density/low potential (in “electronic voltage” or power terms) nature makes it very challenging to design them for cost-effective use and for dependable energy.

At this point I consider them worth pursuing on significant scale only in certain situations for small, isolated areas where “bringing in” electric lines or fuel supplies is expensive due to distance or other considerations: Denmark has some small islands where that has made sense. But reducing conventional power demands in daily usage must be a significant consideration.

En route to and from visiting family in South Carolina, while traveling through rural mid-Georgia on U.S. routes roughly between I-75 and Columbus, Georgia, I pass by a very large “solar farm” — several hundred acres of flat solar panels roughly four-foot square (maybe larger) each. Having some idea from previous research and data-gathering for my own purposes, it made me wonder, “What small fraction of power for metro Atlanta (or any sizeable developed area) would that ‘solar farm’ provide?”

I hadn’t given really critical thought the problems of renewables regarding viability in large-scale projects until recent articles pointed out that Germany, which has invested heavily in both solar and wind power over the past 20 to 25 years, now pays double the rate for its electrical power as compared to France, which has focused primarily on nuclear power for electricity for 60 years.

People in the United States worry about nuclear waste, but it is much less of a problem than it seems. France uses “re-enrichment of nuclear fuel” as a reliable and low-cost method to specifically avoid most of the concerns with the disposal of spent fuel that has been somewhat problematic in the United States.

It appears one reason “disposal” has been problematic for the United States is that the “suppliers of new nuclear fuel” used their lobbying power and political influence to prevent development and implementation of re-enrichment of “spent” nuclear fuel here — to assure their own fortunes. Another instance of corruption in the U.S. “system” that is costing us dearly.

Richard Nott



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*Sent via e-mail*

## **Korean War Location**

Regarding the caption below the picture on page 36 of your October 21 article entitled "Perpetual Peace Through Perpetual War," Inchon is in South Korea, not North Korea. It's not far west of Seoul.

Russell W. Haas  
Golden, Colorado



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