



Louis Halkias

Re: Energy Analytics Contact form: Louis Halkias

Tue, Feb 4, 2025 at 8:29 AM

Cc: Portia Roberts

Dear Mr. Halkias,

Thank you for your kind words about the op-ed. I am attaching the entire report on which it is based.

There is a huge amount of literature on resource costs. The fundamental problem with wind/solar (the environmental groups recoil from nuclear, even though it is emissions-free) is that it is intermittent and requires backup from battery storage, which is hugely expensive. That's why so-called "levelized costs of energy" (LCOE) for wind and solar are deceptive and cannot be used to compare with generating resources that are always available. Moreover, you can read about fires at battery storage plants, most recently the large fire at PG&E's Moss Landing facility (the fourth fire there since 2019). When you include back-up costs, wind/solar are far more costly than natural gas. Furthermore, higher electricity costs mean reduced economic growth because consumers/businesses must spend more on electricity, which leaves less to spend on other goods, less to invest, and raises the costs of goods and services.

Finally, I would point out that Naperville's ending its contract will have no measurable impact on climate. China is building hundreds of new coal plants – in part, for the electricity needed to manufacture wind turbines and solar panels to sell to the U.S.). Nothing the U.S. does will have any impact on climate.

I hope this is helpful.

Regards,

Jonathan

Jonathan A Lesser, PhD

President, Continental Economics, Inc.

Senior Fellow, National Center for Energy Analytics

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Begin forwarded message:

From: "Louis Halkias via[@gmail.com](#)>**Subject:** Energy Analytics Contact form: Louis Halkias**Date:** February 3, 2025 at 16:45:45 EST**To:****Reply-To:**

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**2024-12-NCEA-Electrification Without Electricity-Lesser.pdf**

412K

Jonathan is the President of Continental Economics with over 35 years of experience working and consulting for regulated utilities and government. He has addressed critical economic and regulatory issues affecting the energy industry in the U.S., Canada, and Latin America, including gas and electric utility structure and operations, cost-benefit analysis, mergers and acquisitions, cost allocation and rate design, asset management strategies, cost of capital, depreciation, risk management, incentive regulation, economic impact studies, and general regulatory policy. Jonathan has prepared expert testimony and reports for numerous utility commissions and international regulatory bodies and has testified before Congress and numerous state legislative committees, and also served as arbiter in disputes between regulators and regulated utilities. Jonathan has also designed economic models to value nuclear, fossil fuel, and renewable generating assets. He is the coauthor of three textbooks: *Environmental Economics and Policy* (Addison Wesley Longman, 1997), *Principles of Utility Corporate Finance* (Regulatory Economics Publishing, 2011), and the widely used, *Fundamentals of Energy Regulation*, 3d ed (Regulatory Economics Publishing, 2020), as well as numerous academic and trade press articles. Jonathan was previously an Adjunct Fellow with the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research. He is also an Editorial Board member for *Natural Gas & Electricity* and earned a B.S degree in Mathematics and Economics from the University of New Mexico, and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Economics from the University of Washington.



Louis Halkias

Trimble County Generating Station

John Ogburn
To: Louis Halkias

Mon, Apr 7, 2025 at 5:02 PM

Mr. Halikias,

My name is John Ogburn, I am the current County Judge Executive in Trimble County, KY. I currently manage our county government agencies, Road Department, Emergency Management, Emergency Ambulance Service, Animal Control, Solid Waste Management, Planning and Zoning, Building Inspection, & County Finances. We currently have around 60 employees. Before this position, I was a Field Service Engineer for Metso Outotec, traveling about the globe, working in the Mining and Construction industry. This company acquired several product lines of equipment throughout the world to corner the market in Mining, Bulk Material Handling, Filtration, etc..... Prior to that, I was employed by Louisville Gas and Electric-Kentucky Utilities, Trimble County Generating Station, as a Material Handling Lead Operator/ Maintenance Technician, working in coal and limestone unloading and making sure both coal-fired units had their supply of coal every day. I had a crew of 6 fulltime employees and a support crew of 6 part time employees. We were responsible for unloading coal barges from the river and limestone for the pollution control system. In my career I have seen how important these plants are to small communities, I have also seen the damaged caused to communities that lose them and the loss of jobs and lives ruined because of shutting down coal plants, now we are seeing the affects of these poor decisions with rolling brown outs, lack of reliable transmission systems, etc.... The small Ohio, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Illinois, Arizona, Oregon, & West Virginia towns disappear or become drug and crime ridden without the employment of these plants and their supply chains. It is really sad that we are shutting coal down and other countries are using up our resources, with no benefits to the end users, the rate payers.

I am for a clean environment but am also for cheap energy that companies can afford to manufacture good in the United States, pay good wages and offer national security for our country. Wind, solar and renewable energy are great ideas in theory but are not sustainable and not reliable and usually cost most energy usage than the payoff. LGE-KU generating station, works with our community to help with school projects, community events, etc..... The county does, collect property taxes from the company, however it is negotiated with the Public Service Commission of Kentucky and is probably far less than it should be comparable speaking to other companies operating in our community. I don't blame the company I blame our lawmakers in Frankfort for allowing it. We still get a substantial amount from them. The company does have 250 full and part time employees. The company does help financially with local project as well.

I have worked with most of the management at the plant and do believe they do what is best for the environment. The plant is a very safe and offers steady income for many in our community. They produce several by-products that are useful to many industries, some help our local farmers. Several local farmer's take advantage of the large footprint of land and get to farm the remaining crop ground, so this helps our local citizens. The company is serious about compliance

with local, state, and federal EPA laws. Our local government and community would much rather see more coal fired generation or nuclear generation than wind or solar fields that destroy our remaining farm ground. In fact, we have enacted ordinances at the local level that would make it costly for wind and solar companies to operate here in Trimble County. Not that we don't think they are great ideas at small scales on businesses and at farms, but not in the industrial size models that are devastating to small rural counties. The Trimble Station Employees volunteer through the year at our community events and projects as well.

Trimble County is glad to have LGE-KU in our community.

John D. Ogburn Jr.

Trimble County Judge Executive

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Mar 30, 2025

Mr. Halkias,

I am writing to inform you of the positive things Prairie State has done for Marissa High School. I am Joseph Wheeler and I am the teacher and coordinator for Marissa Jr./Sr. High School Alternative School: Project UP. In this program, students who struggle in a general education classroom are given the opportunity to attend a smaller self-contained classroom so the students can focus on their course work and receive more one-on-one instruction. Since the beginning of this program, which started in 2016, Prairie State has mentored our students twice a month. The students enrolled in this program are at risk of dropping out. The mentors at Prairie State have not only helped the students gain work experience, but they have also encouraged the students to study and do their best in school and graduate.

The employees, who volunteer to take time out of their busy schedule to work with the students, do a great job of working with the students. Students have learned the day-to-day business and how the power plant operates. Many of our students have taken the safety tutorials and exams given to the employees that were recently hired. A great deal of emphasis is on safety and making sure all precautions and procedures are in place for all employees, visitors, and vendors. While job shadowing, students worked with a professional to improve their resumes. Students received first hand experience on warehouse operations and clerical duties. Some of the students who have aspirations on using technology get to work with the full time employees who work in the technology department. I believe the greatest impact Prairie State job mentors have had on my students is simply the time they spent to talk and answer questions. Many of the students are nervous the first time they go to Prairie State, but the kindness of the mentors has made them feel comfortable and they all talk about the experience on the bus ride home.

One of the first items the students learn is how efficient and clean the power plant is. The plant is located 7 miles from the High School which makes the ten minute drive useful to hear about all the information the students received. Several of our former students are currently employed at Prairie State. On our final visit each year, the job mentors give us a party which has always been one of the best days of the school year. We really appreciate all Prairie State has done for our students at Marissa and look forward to starting up in August to begin our 10th year working together.

Joseph Wheeler

Marissa Alternative School: Project UP Coordinator/Teacher



Louis Halkias

Prairie State Generating Company

1 message

Jewell Meyer

Mon, Mar 31, 2025 at 11:01 AM

To:

Mr. Louis Halkias,
Chairman of the Naperville Public Utility Advisory Board
Naperville, IL

I have been involved in the local government of Washington County for over 30 years. As Chairman of the Washington County Board, I have experienced the beginning of the building and continued development of the Prairie State Generating Company. They are well respected by many in our communities. Their work has increased tax income for Washington County in many ways.

1. It has resulted in the building of a new school facility K-12 in Okawville.
2. Our county built a new judicial building and completely restored our existing historic courthouse.
3. Some of the resources were used for a newly constructed Emergency System Ambulance building.
4. The income has helped build local infrastructure.
5. Prairie State is actively raising money and supporting charities and fundraisers in our community.
6. They have produced and continue to produce good jobs for this area.
7. Being a good steward of the local environment is important and Prairie State and its management have worked to insure that our communities provide a safe and clean environment.
8. We have not had any negative issues about our air and water.
9. They run a state of the art electric generating company and coal mine.
10. They also make useful byproducts from burning coal that include material for fertilizer, gypsum for wallboard, and cement ingredients.

We have experienced a good relationship with Prairie State and its management and this has proven to be very beneficial to Washington County.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

David A Meyer
Chairman of the Board of Washington County Illinois

PRAIRIE STATE

Energy Campus

POWERING THE PEOPLE

The Prairie State Energy Campus provides 2.5 million families with electricity every day. Learn more about the cleanest coal-fueled power plant in Illinois.

ILLINOIS JOBS & ECONOMIC IMPACT

650 well-paying, full time jobs

\$45 million annual investment in the Illinois union workforce - utilizing the skills of more than 1,000 boilermakers, pipefitters, millwrights, iron workers, electricians, laborers and carpenters

\$785 million annual economic impact to region

\$47 million contributed to local taxing districts

ENERGY IN TRANSPORT

Prairie State's mine mouth design eliminates emissions associated with fuel delivery and provides energy security without the risk of fuel. After converting coal to energy, Prairie State safely delivers it to member-owners, who get power to everyone else.

- Coal
- Power Plant
- Public Power Utility
- Homes and Businesses

EFFICIENT, RELIABLE ENERGY

Prairie State's power plant incorporates supercritical technology in the boiler. This technology effectively produces more energy per ton of coal, with less CO₂ emissions.

INVESTING IN CLEAN TECHNOLOGY

We've invested \$1 Billion in equipment that significantly reduces the top 4 monitored air pollutants, creating one of the cleanest coal-fueled power plants in the world.

85%
removal

NO_x
Nitrogen
Oxide

98%
removal

SO₂
Sulfur
Dioxide

99%
removal

PM
Particulate
Material

90%
removal

Hg
Mercury

INVESTING IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

\$61,000 awarded throughout 10 years of scholarship programs.



Around 150 local organizations supported each year through our charitable giving program.



Clothing and toys provided to over 2,500 local children through 17 years of holiday drives.



2024 SUSTAINABILITY STATISTICS: WE POWER TOMORROW

1,264,631 TONS
OF GYPSUM
BENEFICIALLY
REUSED

1,205,387 TONS
OF FLY ASH
BENEFICIALLY
REUSED

1,120,639 TONS
OF CO₂
OFFSET

Find out more about the Prairie State Energy Campus at www.prairiestateenergycampus.com