

AMEREN CONFSSION: No NUKE NEEDED

AMEREN SAYS: Speaking of the potential for energy efficiency measures to reduce the demand for new generating capacity, Steve Kidwell, vice president of regulatory affairs at Ameren Missouri, told the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* (Feb. 25, 2011):

“If we went after the potential that we’ve seen in our own study, we wouldn’t have to build another power plant for 20 years, and we could retire Meramec [a large coal plant], and we’d be OK.”

Yes, this senior Ameren executive has acknowledged that:

No new plants are needed for decades.

Cheaper, Faster, Better: Ameren has actually gone further. They’ve also acknowledged that efficiency measures to reduce the need for power cost far less than electricity produced in new plants. Regarding Ameren’s Integrated Resource Plan, the Post-Dispatch reports:

“According to the plan, it costs about 4 cents to save a kilowatt-hour of energy — far less than the 10 cents per kilowatt-hour to build and operate a new nuclear plant, or 12 cents for a natural gas-fired plant.”

No-Brainer? One would think that if Ameren could assure ample energy supplies, keep prices lower, do it all more quickly and have no nasty political fights on their hands, this would be the obvious way to go.

But Ameren’s main objective is to maximize profits, not to meet customer needs most cost-effectively. So, **instead of maintaining, or increasing their modest investments in efficiency, Ameren has announced that they are cutting them.**



Steve Kidwell

Ameren VP Kidwell explained to the *Post-Dispatch* that investing in efficiency they wouldn’t need any new plants for two decades, but: **“we’d lose \$30 million a year [in expected profits]. And we just can’t do that. It’s that simple.”**

WE SAY: This might seem “simple” to Ameren, but it makes absolutely no sense to us. And most customers and citizens we’ve talked with agree that this is an outrage.

Ameren is, quite simply, putting their own short-run interests ahead of the well being of their customers, as well as the health of the environment.

Ameren proposes to **squander many billions of dollars on a risky and unneeded nuclear reactor.** They want the ratepayers to pay up front, through Construction Work In Progress (CWIP) charges. It would take more than a decade to complete a new Callaway reactor, while **efficiency investments can be implemented in a matter of months and begin paying back with reduced consumption and lower bills right away.**

And efficiency investments are not subject to catastrophic accidents nor do they serve as terror targets. And they don’t produce vast inventories of deadly radioactive nuclear waste.

Missourians deserve better. We are ready for a clean, sustainable energy future, based on energy efficiency and the use of truly renewable energy sources, including wind, solar and geothermal. The Public Service Commission must **require Ameren to pursue a Least Cost Strategy.** This would ensure that investments are made in affordable green technologies, not in a new nuke.

WHAT DO YOU SAY? **It is up to all of us,** as citizens, to make our voices heard. Please **contact your state and federal representatives and senators, as well as the Governor and**

the President and let them know your thoughts. If you share our perspective, **please ask them to cut all subsidies to dirty energy—including nuclear, coal and oil—and instead to support the rapid transition to a sustainable energy future.**

We also invite your participation in Missourians for Safe Energy. Contact us at mail@mosafeenergy.org or visit www.mosafeenergy.org or www.facebook.com/MissouriansForSafeEnergy

