

Power Generation Comments 2021 02 03

My name is Roger Caiazza. I am a retired air pollution meteorologist making personal comments representing my fixed income senior citizen demographic. I do not believe that the majority of New York citizens have any idea what the Climate Act means to their future but I do and the potential impacts on affordability and reliability of the electric system scare me.

The German green energies experience should be an affordability concern. Germany's electricity [prices have increased 27%](#) over the past decade and green energy surcharges make up over half the cost. Their targets are less aggressive than ours so I suspect our costs will increase more. When the Climate Action Council claims that the plans are cost-effective even with the increased costs because of the NY value of carbon, it should be recognized that today's real costs are only cheaper compared to contrived value-driven estimates of speculative impacts occurring out to 2300 almost exclusively outside the state.

I am uncomfortable listening to the panel when reliability concerns are raised. There seems to be little recognition that there will always be peak electric energy periods – when it is very hot or very cold society needs more energy. The point is that you need to design the electric system to address those periods, not hope that that a magical solution will eliminate peak loads. Failure to do so will mean reliability risks at the worst possible time.

As a meteorologist I worry that an assessment of renewable energy resources using observed meteorological data has not been prepared. It is critical to determine how much renewable energy is available in the multi-day winter doldrums because energy use will increase in the future due to heating and transportation electrification.

The bottom line is that because energy use is inelastic so an increase in energy costs is a regressive expense. While it is entirely appropriate that there should be an emphasis on environmental and social justice your proposed strategies have to consider cost-effectiveness to reduce the regressive impact on those who can least afford those increased costs, regardless of location, who are living in energy poverty or have a disproportionate energy burden.