

the same, because of the continually dropping price of solar power.³¹

Well, solar and wind costs have continued going down. As I and Jon Wellinghoff, the then-Chair of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), separately predicted back in 2013 using FERC data,³² U.S. solar power is still on track to produce more electricity than any other source by 2023. The state of Georgia should not have to get left behind if Georgia Power and Southern Company think foresight means looking to past mistakes such as natural gas as a “bridge fuel” or sinking more money into Plant Vogtle. The PSC can fix that.

I would like to thank Tom Fanning for his continued hospitality at Stockholder Meetings, and his willingness to patiently listen to all sorts of viewpoints, and to respond. One of his repeated responses to different speakers this year was that the amount of solar power Georgia Power would buy would be decided in the PSC IRP process. So in this letter I am taking up his suggestion of appealing to the PSC.

To collect all my suggestions in one place, I urge the PSC to:

- 1. Implement staff’s recommended fines and other actions related to the Homerville explosion of natural gas from an Atlanta Gas Light (AGL) pipeline.** See PSC Docket [42166](#).
- 2. Once again require Georgia Power to buy more solar power than it requested in its IRP, to a significant number such as 12 gigawatts by 2024.** See PSC Docket [42310](#) for this and the following suggestions.
- 3. Require Georgia Power to pay for most, if not all, of the cost of disposal of coal ash,** in properly lined and otherwise protected landfills, on property owned by Georgia Power, not by shipping it to local landfills.
- 4. Ask the parties responsible for airborne mercury into our rivers to provide compensation for the negative impacts that mercury emissions have on recreational fishing.**
- 5. Stop any more money and renewable energy opportunity costs from being wasted on the years-late and far-over-budget Plant Vogtle nuclear power project.**
- 6. Promote wind by demanding Georgia Power get on with it.**

The PSC has the power and the responsibility to steer the utilities to renewable solar, wind, and storage energy on a smart grid now, for reliable, dependable, sustainable power for Georgia. I look forward to seeing that happen. I urge you and the other Commissioners to make that happen.

I’d also like to ask you for a meeting in your PSC district, to discuss these and other matters, with WWALS and other interested parties. Valdosta or Tifton are centrally located, and would be good for such a meeting. Or perhaps Lakeland. Or Homerville, site of that AGL pipeline explosion. People from as far away as Atlanta are interested in meeting with you.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

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³¹ "The cloudy day doesn't last for an entire month –John S. Quarterman @ GA PSC 2013-06-18," John S. Quarterman, LAKE, 29 June 2013, <http://www.l-a-k-e.org/blog/?p=4411>

³² "Solar will overtake everything –FERC Chair Jon Wellinghof," John S. Quarterman, LAKE, 22 August 2013, <http://www.l-a-k-e.org/blog/?p=5257>