



SHEET METAL AND AIR CONDITIONING CONTRACTORS' NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

SMACNA URGES: USE AVAILABLE TECHNOLOGY TO BUILD THE EFFICIENT, CLEAN, RELIABLE ELECTRICITY SYSTEM OUR NATION REQUIRES FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

Letter to the Editor, The Wall Street Journal (August 30, 2011)

Your editorial "[An EPA Moratorium](#)" vastly underestimates America's technological capabilities. You assert a blanket moratorium on new clean air regulations is justified because "the technology to implement such [a] standard is not available." To the contrary, energy efficiency represents a low-cost energy resource that can replace lost electric capacity from new EPA regulations.

Energy efficiency—in particular systems that generate energy from waste heat—are readily available and have been recognized by EPA as central tools for regulatory compliance.

Traditionally, when gas and coal are burned to generate electricity, as much as two-thirds of their useful energy is vented into the atmosphere. Waste Heat Recovery (WHR) and Combined Heat and Power (CHP) capture this wasted heat to generate clean power. According to the Department of Energy, WHR and CHP can provide 20% of US electric capacity by 2030—the equivalent of nearly 400 conventional power plants.

In contrast to the editorial's estimate of 81 gigawatts of utility retirements, ICF International estimates CHP and WHR can generate an additional 64 gigawatts in the industrial sector *alone*—that means more than 79% of the claimed retirements can be replaced with *today's* technology. What's more, most studies project significantly fewer retirements—in the range of 6 to 65 gigawatts.

Critically, CHP and WHR are manufactured in the United States. The Department of Energy projects that full-scale deployment of CHP and WHR could create one-million high-paying jobs in the manufacture, installation and maintenance of equipment. And more efficient factories can save millions of dollars on their energy bills, boosting profitability, productivity and competitiveness. Rather than defending the status quo, we ought to look within our borders and utilize available technology to build the efficient, clean and reliable electricity system our businesses and nation require for economic growth.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Seraphinoff Jr
Chair, SMACNA Industrial Contractors Council

Nicholas Seraphinoff Jr. is Vice President of Allied Ventilation, a sheet metal fabrication and installation contractor in Warren, Mich. He is Chair of the Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractor's National Association's (SMACNA) Industrial Contractors Council. SMACNA is an international trade association representing 4500 contributing contractor firms that promotes quality and excellence in the sheet metal and air conditioning industry within North America. SMACNA members are instrumental in the construction and installation of CHP and WHR equipment.



HEADQUARTERS 4201 LAFAYETTE CENTER DRIVE • CHANTILLY VA 20151-1209
MAIL ADDRESS P.O. BOX 221230 • CHANTILLY VA 20153-1230
PHONE 703 803 2980
FAX 703 803 3732
WEB www.smacna.org

Sources:

- Department of Energy, Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), Dec. 1, 2008, *Combined Heat and Power: Effective Energy Solutions for a Sustainable Future* (at 4; estimate assumes typical power generation of 500 MW from a traditional coal-fired power plant).
(<http://info.ornl.gov/sites/publications/files/Pub13655.pdf>)
- ICF International, Oct. 2010, "Effect of a 30 Percent Investment Tax Credit on the Economic Market Potential for Combined Heat and Power," Table 3 p. 11.
(http://www.uschpa.org/files/public/USCHPA%20WADE_ITC_Report_FINAL%20v4.pdf).
- Tierney, Susan. 2011. "Electric Reliability under New EPA Power Plant Regulations: A Field Guide." Washington, D.C.: World Resources Institute.
(<http://www.wri.org/stories/2011/01/electric-reliability-under-new-epa-power-plant-regulations-field-guide>).