

## Richard Voget

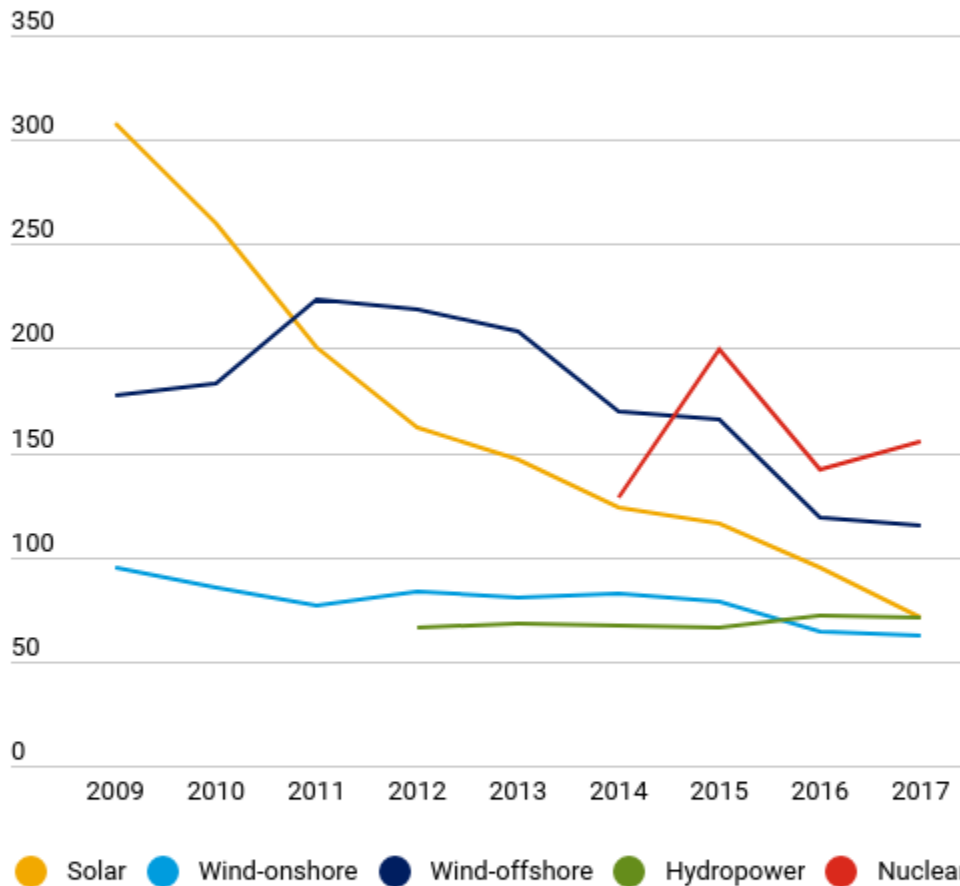
The SSEIS shows clearly that the facility would generate around 4.6 million tons of carbon dioxide pollution each year, equivalent to around 5 percent of the state's total climate emissions. This much is clearly established and irrefutable. The mission of the department of Ecology should be to oversee the reduction of greenhouse gases, and not declare a project as acceptable because it is less dirty than an alternative. The most recent international and global assessments show that if greenhouse gases continue to increase at the current rate, global temperatures are likely to reach 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels by as early as 2030. The SSEIS states that only emissions from Washington State will be mitigated. And mitigation can be spread over years past 2030. Between the unmitigated emissions from China and British Columbia as well as the unmitigated emissions that haven't had their turn to be decarbonized, this project will be increasing global warming at a time when the window to avert a climate crisis is closing

The entire premise of the Kalama project is establishing 40 more years of consumer demand for gas rather than moving away from fossil fuels. How can you confidently predict consumer demand for the next 40 years? Coal production has crashed as the price of natural gas became cheaper due to fracking. I have included the Chart of the Week from the April 2019 World Economic Outlook that shows prices dropped 76 percent for solar panels and 34 percent for turbines between 2009 and 2017 making them competitive alternatives to fossil fuels and more traditional low-carbon energy sources such as hydropower and nuclear. Renewable energy generated electricity will become cheaper than methanol and all the other fossil fuels in the not to distant future and well within the 40-year premise of the SSEIS. The price of methanol will not remain constant as predicted in the report. The Kalama refinery will eventually close as methanol becomes noncompetitive. Please do not approve this project that will contribute to global warming until it closes due to market economics that were not evaluated in the report.

## Cheaper power

Rapidly falling costs are fueling investment in solar panels and wind turbines for electric power generation.

(levelized cost of electricity, US dollars per megawatt hour)



Sources: Bloomberg New Energy Finance; Federal Reserve Economic Data; and IMF staff calculations.

Note: Levelized cost of electricity data has been deflated using GDP deflator and does not include subsidies and taxes.