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Editor
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Ms. Wernau's June 12 article resonates. I've been working in the power industry since 1981. Before that, my father worked for ComEd for 33 years, ultimately serving as the manager of their ambitious nuclear construction program.

Rule 1: You can't retire existing power plants until you have new plants to replace them. During the construction boom of the 1990s, we once located a higher efficiency plant right next to an older, lower efficiency plant. The day the new plant came on line, the old one ran much less. This is a form of economic displacement. Today, we seek *environmental displacement*, where less-polluting (or non-polluting) power plants displace older, dirtier plants. Where will they come from?

Last month, I joined Hydro Green Energy (HGE). We relocated from Houston to the Chicagoland area just last week. In preparation for the inevitable environmental displacement, HGE is initially developing nearly 150 MW of competitively-priced, clean, reliable hydropower facilities on the Mississippi River. All of our low-impact installations will be located at existing unpowered dams and will harness energy that is currently being wasted.

Rule 2: Fuel diversity is a key to a well-structured, risk-mitigating utility portfolio. Ms. Wernau correctly states that more expensive energy will likely fill the gap. Most people know that we need to evaluate nuclear, coal, gas, wind, solar and other fuel types to ensure long term viability. What they may not know is that there is 65,000 Megawatts of untapped hydropower potential in the United States. Additionally, hydropower is generally accepted as the most economical renewable energy source.

Some have noted the obvious drawbacks to renewable sources like wind and solar - they don't work when the wind isn't blowing or when the sun isn't shining. Hydropower is our nation's largest renewable energy source and, as we know, the Mississippi River flows 24/7. Responsible hydropower can make a meaningful difference in our energy and environmental future.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Maley
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