

FILE

October 14, 2008

Mr. Alan R. Schriber
Chairman
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES
COMMISSION OF OHIO
180 East Broad Street
Columbus OH 43215



Micro-CHP



Dish Stirling
utility power

Dear Mr. Schriber:

Governor Strickland has stated that he wants core clean technology, incentives, engineering capabilities at Ohio sites. There is an opportunity for jobs to be created using available clean power technology that will also reduce energy consumption.

Micro-CHP (combined heat and power) units can be installed in a home or business for around \$2-3K per unit, and provide 1 kW of power for free, using the waste heat generated from providing utility heat. The micro-CHP units have been mass-manufactured in Korea and China, and are being installed at the rate of 15 per week. This process can be duplicated in Ohio cost-competitively. It's just difficult to get started and the hit price points as Korea and China have already done.


→ There needs to be an incentive for Stirling engine manufacturing; that is, to enable high-volume and low-cost Stirling engine manufacturing for a range of applications. And this cost-competitive volume manufacturer should be in the US (and can be in Ohio) versus overseas. And these engines can be manufactured, with the help of at least one company called Sunpower, Inc., in Athens, Ohio (740-594-2221 ext 567 - www.sunpower.com).

This enabling of a Stirling engine manufacturing business will then enable micro-CHP technology, and also Stirling utility power (0-emission utility power, using solar concentrators and Stirling engines, as is being installed in southern California). If the engines are manufactured in high volume and low cost, the many partners and customers will "do the rest" to manufacture and sell utility power and micro-CHP systems, providing many Ohio jobs along the way.

In the interest of full disclosure, I am also a Cleveland State University/SAIC contractor at the NASA Glenn Research Center (GRC). GRC is the power and propulsion center for the NASA federal agency, with decades of renewable power expertise, and is where I met Dr. Richard Shaltens, who told me about Sunpower and Stirling power in general. Dr. Shaltens is the Branch Chief of Thermal Energy Conversion, has decades of Stirling engine experience, and advises Stirling engine companies nationwide, including the company involved in the California Stirling power initiative, mentioned above. The Department of Defense is also looking toward Stirling power for many reasons: security, fuel savings, greenhouse gases, etc.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


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