

# Those Deadly, Green Nazi Solar Panels

by Laurence Hecht

Aug. 21—Not only does solar energy cost more to produce than it gives back, but rooftop solar panels are dangerous to your health and hearth. In Germany, Australia, and the U.S.A., fire departments are warning of the deadly threat of fighting blazes associated with solar panels.

In Germany, the issue has recently become a major news item. While city and local governments, swept by the Green mania, are demanding more rooftop panel installations, many fire departments have warned that fires cannot be fought on houses with rooftop solar panel units, and so the property will be completely destroyed.

The largest solar panel blaze in history took place in June 2009 in Germany at the warehouse complex of BP Solar (Yes, that is British Petroleum!). Talk about “accident prone.” BP’s 200-square-meter array, at Bürstadt, near Mannheim, was one of the largest roof-mounted installations in the world. And it was fabricated by BP Solar.

A rooftop solar array produces direct current electricity at a potential of 600 to 800 volts, more than enough to kill—and *it cannot be turned off*. The standard firefighting technique of opening up the roof to vent a blaze is not possible, because putting an axe through the solar panels exposes the firemen to deadly voltages.

Firefighters in the United States also have a policy of letting the solar panel-related fire burn out, rather than fighting it. Reporting on a 2009 meeting of New Jersey fire chiefs, a Florence Township chief wrote: “The final question which was asked really put things in perspective—someone asked that since California is number one when it comes to Solar Panel System in-



*The Reichstag Fire, 1933. Today, firemen would have to just let it burn, if it had rooftop solar panels*

stallations, “What do their Firefighters do when a structure fire involves these systems?” Answer was “they let it burn!””

And the solar panels themselves are often the cause of the blaze. In Australia, where government subsidies sparked a boom in rooftop panel installations, a survey of 200 systems found 3% were incorrectly wired, leading to serious fire risk. Apart from faulty wiring by installers, poor quality control in manufacturing has led to fractures in the joints between the solar cell modules, which can lead to electrical arcing. The resultant fires burn at quite high temperatures.

Solar electricity generation is ridiculously costly, and has only caught on because of huge government subsidies. Studies in the U.S. show that the true cost for the average home is 35 cents per kilowatt hour, and 25 cents per kWh in the desert. Electricity can be generated from nuclear plants at 1.3 cents/kWh, if plant construction time is reduced to a reasonable five years or less. Uranium fuel is so energy dense, that the main cost of nuclear power is in the plant construction. Knowing this, the Green nazis in the

U.S.A. fought for punitive regulations which dragged out construction times to ten years or longer. They thus ran up amortization costs at high compound interest rates to high levels, making it appear cheaper, in the short run, for a utility to build coal or gas-fired plants.

Meanwhile, Green alternative energy is subsidized at huge taxpayer expense. In Germany, *Der Spiegel* reports that a study by the Arrhenius Institute for Energy and Environmental Policy calculated that solar energy receives EU2.7 million *per hour* in subsidies! This figure is obtained simply by multiplying the EU35 cents/kWh which consumers pay as a subsidy on solar energy, by the overall consumption in one hour, as measured on July 8. Today, one of the largest solar panel installations in the world is atop the roof of the Reichstag building in Berlin (see image at this link).

Shall history soon repeat itself in bizarre fashion, with a new Reichstag Fire, this time caused by the solar panel mania of the new Green nazis?