

Club of Rome's Genocidal Energy Project for Africa

According to an article in the June 16 German newsweekly *Der Spiegel*, a Club of Rome-led consortium of 20 companies has announced a EU400-billion (\$555.3 billion) malthusian energy plan to turn the North African desert into a string of large solar concentrating plants, similar to the Solar One plant in the California desert. The project would consist of low-tech solar thermal power, using parabolic mirrors to heat water, which would drive turbines in a local power plant, to supply electricity to Europe. Members of the consortium include the German insurance giant Munich Re, Siemens, Deutsche Bank, and energy companies including RWE.

The plan, called Desertec, is a slick repackaging of a scheme that has been kicked around for several years; it has been endorsed by the same genocidal crowd that opposes the worldwide development of nuclear power, including former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, global warming fanatic Al Gore, and the Climate Group, which includes the old British Empire banks, Standard and Chartered and HSBC.

The promotional material on the Desertec Foundation website, which is paid for by the malthusian Club of Rome, reads more like an investment pro-

spectus geared towards creating a financial bubble than an energy plan: No details are provided on the size of the solar power plants, nor the number needed to supply the claim of providing 15% of Europe's electricity demands.

In fact, Desertec is based on the fatally flawed assumption that "renewables," like solar and wind, could replace baseline sources of electrical power, like fossil fuel and nuclear, a fraud that would lead to the deaths of *billions of people* worldwide. To illustrate the point, the solar concentrating plants that the plan uses are intermittent and have a capacity factor of around 25%—and that is being generous. That means, that the solar power plant will only produce electricity about 25% of the time, as opposed to a nuclear power plant, which produces electricity 95% of the time.

Moreover, solar concentrating plants use four times the water of a natural gas power plant—an insane idea for the North African desert.

The other limiting feature of the solar concentrating plant is that it doesn't produce much in the way of high-temperature process heat. With a solar concentrating plant you have to choose to use the steam either to produce electricity or to desalinate seawater—you can't do both. On the other hand, with a fourth-generation high-temperature nuclear reactor, which produces high-temperature process heat, you could both desalinate seawater and produce electricity.

—Greg Murphy