

Media Advisory - Long Form

“Green Electricity or Green Money? Why some environmental groups hamper clean energy”

*Published by the National Institute for Science,
Law & Public Policy*

November 3, 2014. Washington, D.C. A new paper, [“Green Electricity or Green Money? Why some environmental groups hamper clean energy”](#), that highlights conflicts of interest and mistaken positions on energy policy at certain large environmental organizations was published today by the National Institute for Science, Law and Public Policy (NISLAPP) in Washington, D.C.

Authored by Dr. Timothy Schoechle of Boulder, CO, Senior Research Fellow at the National Institute for Science, Law & Public Policy, under the direction of Camilla Rees, Policy Advisor to NISLAPP, *“Green Electricity or Green Money?”* examines how some of our largest and most influential environmental organizations, appear to have lost their way and are failing us when we need them most.



Dr. Schoechle says, “Changing the energy economy and slowing climate change must come from the people. There is abundant evidence that it will not come from corporations and non-profits heavily invested in existing practices—nor will it come from governments and politicians, and regulators heavily compromised and committed to the existing order. It will likely

be left to the people to reinvent the electricity system largely through bottom up community initiatives and disruptive technologies—motivated by the desire for a clean energy future, control of energy costs, economic growth, and local control of environmental health”.

“Green Electricity or Green Money?” highlights cases in which the large environmental organizations are aiding and abetting a dysfunctional, entrenched and polluting electricity and energy economy through resistance to renewable energy technologies and ill-advised support for billions of dollars of new utility meters, called ‘smart’ meters, which do not have any of the benefits claimed.

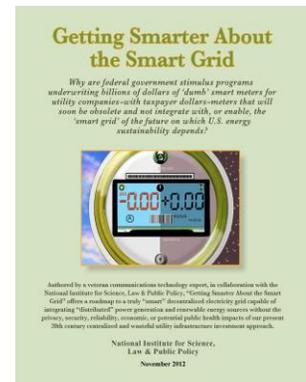
The paper cites several well-documented situations involving the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). In *“Green Electricity or Green Money?”* Dr. Schoechle poses the following questions:

- Why do some large environmental organizations collaborate with fossil fuel industries to obstruct, mislead and divert efforts to revamp our energy economy?

- Do the significant annual capital needs of these organizations limit their independence and thus their ability to achieve meaningful environmental goals?
- To what degree have these organizations lost sight of their missions, and thus lost their legitimacy as representatives of the people?
- Should local communities provide “checks” on Big Environmentalism by taking more control of their own energy future to assure sustainability?
- Are well-known “clean energy” investors interested in clean energy—or merely in green money and the “greenwashing” of their investments?

Jim Turner, Esq., Chairman of the National Institute for Science, Law and Public Policy, says “Much of what is advocated under the banner of Big Environmentalism today is neither protective of the environment nor supportive of sustainability. In publishing *“Green Electricity or Green Money?”* NISLAPP seeks to foster honest dialogue about impediments to effective leadership in the environmental sector, and to encourage grass roots-led environmentalism to assure that investments in the energy sector are aligned with the values and interests of people.”

In 2012, NISLAPP published *“Getting Smarter About the Smart Grid”*, also by Dr. Schoechle, (www.GettingSmarterAbouttheSmartGrid.org). That white paper demonstrated that Congress, state and local governments, as well as ratepayers, have been misled about the potential energy and cost saving benefits of the new “smart” meters. It was presented and updated at the Commonwealth Club of California, one of the nation’s leading public affairs forums, in January 2014 (<http://tinyurl.com/n7yvo4w>).



Dr. Schoechle has been engaged in the development of electric utility meters, home automation systems, network gateways, and energy management systems for over 25 years. He participates in several international standards-setting committees related to the smart grid.

The National Institute for Science, Law, and Public Policy (NISLAPP) was founded in 1978 to bridge the gap between scientific uncertainties and the need for laws protecting public health and safety. Its overriding objective is to bring practitioners of science and law together to develop intelligent policy that best serves all interested parties in a given controversy. Its focus is on the points at which these two disciplines converge.

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