

## Sequestered carbon or not, it's still a coal plant

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Regarding the Oct. 17 article, "Pipeline plan would bury gas under the sea," about the plans by SCS Energy LLC, of Concord, Mass., to build a new coal-fired power plant, called PurGen One, in Linden:

Under this plan, carbon dioxide would be piped offshore and diverted into a well 1.5 miles below the seabed 70 miles off Atlantic City.

Spokespersons for this technology build their arguments on the necessity of including coal plants using carbon sequestration with a mix of alternative energy technologies, such as wind and solar power, which are known to work well and reduce consumer price. There is no mention of the fact that under this plan, coal must continue to be strip-mined off the tops of mountains. And even though mining techniques might improve, once sequestration is proven to be economical to the customer (which has not happened in Norway's use of carbon sequestration), the strip-mining will go on for at least a century, at a huge cost to the beauty of our mountain country and to the detriment of our waterways that become polluted as a result of coal mining.

It is also not mentioned that considering the \$5 billion cost of PurGen One, that same investment in wind and solar would greatly increase our power-generating capacity.

The United States can put this latter assertion to the test. Does it have the will?

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