

Good evening. My name is Rob Gusky. I am a Philadelphia resident and degreed petroleum engineer with 35 years of industry experience.

To gain valuable perspective, its first important to review recent refinery history. Due to poor financial results, Sunoco planned to shut the refinery in 2012. However private equity firm Carlyle Group and Energy Transfer Partners rescued the site from financial distress, in a deal that was supported by tax breaks and grants that saved thousands of jobs. Currently, finding a buyer for the PES refinery has grown urgent as the bankrupt company's funds dwindle and no signs emerge that it is winning a fight for insurance payouts after the June 21st blaze.

Based on the financial results for the last two refinery owners Sunoco and PES, and the inevitable global transition to a carbon neutral economy, the grim reality is the site likely has no future as an oil refinery.

We need to take a hard look at the current remediation plans and future potential uses for the site to ensure they are compatible. Sunoco chose to pursue site-specific, nonresidential standards for remediation of the Philadelphia Refinery Complex, on the assumption that the property remains industrial. Evergreen on behalf of Sunoco is currently preparing a Final Report and Cleanup Plan for the facility.

At recent Advisory Group meetings, refinery employees implored on behalf of some 36,000 affected workers in our area to keep the refinery open to provide for their families, Local residents pleaded for clean air and water for the health of their families and 1.6 million Philadelphians.

A preliminary decision analysis was performed which resulted in few options being identified that met key stakeholders success criteria. However, one option that stood out was brightfield solar, which is a demonstrated solution for brownfield industrial sites. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, a Brightfield is an abandoned or contaminated property that is redeveloped through the incorporation of solar energy. Experienced companies offer solar power purchase agreements where they assume the risk by obtaining financing, permits and installing and operating the solar facility in exchange for a long-term contract to purchase the electricity.

Local governments and property owners win by returning unusable land to productive use while generating income and tax revenue. Utilities and solar developers win by building profitable solar generation close to areas of high electric demand. Residents and workers win through reduced emissions and expanded access to local high-tech jobs.

I urge you, as our representatives serving on the Environment Committee of the Refinery Advisory Group, to recommend that investigation of brightfield solar be included in the city's final report.

[Forbes article "Solar Brightfields: Gigawatts Of Clean Energy Potential On America's Landfills And Brownfields"](#)

