

Jet Contrails Diminish Solar Charge Capacities

by Dane Wigington

I started doing research on climate with the 1995 manual on climate change from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Shortly thereafter, when the forest that surrounded me in the Hualipi Mountains of Arizona began to die I decided to move to Northern California, based on the data in that manual.

After moving to Shasta County in 2001, and constructing our large "off grid" home on the east side of Lake Shasta, I began to notice long trails left behind aircraft. This would occur only on an occasional basis and there seemed no recognizable difference in atmospheric conditions or humidity. Days of clear blue skies, with virtually no sign of aircraft, would be followed by days of parallel stripes from horizon to horizon that would gradually spread out during the span of hours until the whole sky became hazy. This is a condition that has a substantially negative effect on the function of a solar voltaic panel's ability to produce power.

I have a background in solar power, having worked on the construction on one of the first commercial solar electric facilities in the United States in the early 1980s, in Dagget, California. I have also had extensive education in the electrical industry. I hold a journeyman's card in the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Union and have held contractor's licenses in California and Arizona. My "off grid" residence in Shasta County was the cover article on the

nation's largest renewable energy magazine.

During our first two winters here, there was considerable difficulty maintaining adequate battery charges due to lengthy storms. This was further worsened by the long aircraft trails that would cover the skies during the occasional breaks in weather fronts. These jet trails alone would at times drop my charging potential to less than half.

The winter drop in power production is more substantial because the thickness of the trails seemed to be enhanced by lower temperatures and higher humidity. Even so, there were occasional days with low temps and high humidity with no trails whatsoever, except for tiny short-lived ones that quickly disappeared. The sharply contrasting observations made clear to me there were profound differences in aircraft activity from one day to the next.

I began to research the issue and was shocked to discover the high number of U.S. patents that described exactly the sort of solar obscuration that was blocking so much of my system's ability to produce solar power.

I began to take notice of surprising accumulations of dust on my panels which also diminishes charging potential. Knowing the ingredients mentioned in the patents, I decided to take a few dust samples to a lab in our area that performs all of California's testing in the region. This was to be the beginning of a chain of alarming data and tests. The dust was full of aluminum and barium.

I live on the highest forested mountaintop in the immediate area. There are no mines or potential areas of contamination within many miles of my location. There was only one plausible origin for this dust. Acting on this conclusion, I tested the final snowstorm of the 2007 season and the final four rainstorms for aluminum and barium content in the water.

All tests showed significant quantities of these metals. I checked with a hydro-geologist about these chemicals and he assured me that unless I lived next to an Alcoa Aluminum factory, there is now way I should have these metals show up in rainwater testing, in any quantity. I tested my rubber-lined pond for an accumulation for the two years it has been installed. The reading was off the scale at 375,000 ug/l. Some two dozen tests subsequently taken by many different residents throughout Shasta County confirm my results and show rising levels of aluminum and barium.

My difficulties getting adequate power in the winter months continued. In summer there were difficulties also. Jet trails that turned into man-made clouds and haze continued in the other seasons, especially spring and fall. Their appearance was less thick but more complete in its coverage of the skies above. My loss of solar uptake was in the 20 to 30% range, more than enough to severely hamper my potential to pump adequate water from my well, for dryer season needs.

The bottom line is that I have been unable, at many times during the year, to produce adequate solar output due to the jet trails alone. There is no consistency to these periods of spraying whatsoever, nor is there any logical explanation, (other than patent #5,003,186, and other similar patents). I can find no other explanations for these inconsistencies based on weather conditions or humidity.

Further, on any given day that the jet trails occur, and they manage to cover part or all of the sky to some degree, it will be entirely clear by late evening. Never a single trail is visible over our area by 10:00 or 11:00 PM, no matter how many dozens of them were visible during the daylight hours when solar clarity is so needed.

The past winter, my solar output has gone from just over 30kw on an otherwise clear winter day, to an output as low as 18 or 19 kw. My summer output has gone from just over 40 kw on average, to averages in the low 30 kw range. Again, both these readings are on days when the only obstruction in the sky is the expanding and lingering trails from a greatly increased number of aircraft on these days.

There are random days and periods during all seasons when there are no trails at all and solar uptake is normal. These clear periods seem to be fewer now than only two years ago, and farther between. I have had to install a hydroelectric unit in three wind turbans to make up for the lost solar power that seems to be continuing to wane, due to increases in jet induced cloud cover and haze. The lack of photosynthesis and increased aluminum in our soils may also be one of the reasons for sharp declines in tree health in Shasta County.

I would like to see an investigation into the true nature of this apparent weather altering program that would expose it's affects on solar power production and any health risks that may be associated with it.

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