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States' RPS Policies: Serving the Public Interest?

Abstract: "In the absence of a national renewable portfolio standard (RPS) in the United States, states have taken the lead in adopting RPS policies. States have recently begun to reassess those policies, spurred by a combination of lower natural gas prices; declining prices for certain renewable technologies; and political pressure. However, natural gas prices are projected to increase in both the short term and long term and the business case for new coal and nuclear plants is presently hard to justify. There also appears to be public support for renewable energy production. While RPS policies are suboptimal, they remain a viable tool for states to use in pursuing the goals of fuel diversity and carbon emission reduction."

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