

A Few “Networking Rules” To Guide Discussions and Their Content.

PickensPlan.com is a “networking” site, designed to bring people, ideas and resources together. For those new to the experience, be aware that there is no “police force” to monitor the tens of thousands of posts each day, nor any way to screen new members. Hence, we have some practical suggestions for you as you navigate through the various forums, blogs, e-mails, and comments:

1. **Avoid personal attacks, online fights, and hostile personalities.** It is easier to ignore a person than to engage in an online battle. Ignore negative comments. Be respectful to others.
2. **When receiving a “friend request” from someone with whom you have not previously corresponded, check their page out first.** Make certain this person is someone you desire to receive private e-mails from. If you are uncertain whether to add them, question them by adding on comment on their page. Also, the PickensPlan site enables you to delete previously added “friends.”
3. **Party politics are for political sites, not www.PickensPlan.com.** Whether you are a Republican, Democrat, Independent, or with another party, please be aware that the Pickens Plan web site is non-partisan, and does not endorse any political candidate for office. We suggest that if someone advocates for, or launches an attack on, any political candidate, you ignore the discussion. If you desire to participate in such a discussion, we request that you suggest to others to move the discussion to another social networking site.
4. **Commercial interests abound.** You will here, both directly and indirectly, various promotions of businesses, products, and services. Many technologies in alternative energy are quite interesting to learn about, and many businesses are developing and deploying these technologies. However, many members believe that commercial postings should be confined to their own groups.
5. **Keep “on topic” within a group or forum.** Know the topic or focus of the group or forum you are in, before posting or replying, or starting a discussion. Try to keep your comments relevant to the group’s purpose or forum’s topic at all times.
6. **Obey the law.** Don’t post any information or conduct any online activity that may violate applicable local, state or federal laws or regulations. When publishing any online material through social media that includes another’s direct or paraphrased quotes, thoughts, ideas, photos, or videos, always use citations and link to the original material where applicable, to avoid copyright infringement.
7. **Evaluate your contribution’s accuracy and truthfulness before posting.** Your post will likely receive more attention if it is accurate, cohesively organized, and truthful.
8. **Enjoy the site, explore it, and take advantage of its capabilities.** Don't be afraid to be yourself. Being professional doesn't mean you can't also speak in a human voice. It will take time to learn all of the tools of the site, so be patient.

- Submitted courtesy of the “Communications Support” group on PickensPlan.com
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