How much is a milestone worth?

Given:

- $h = 1$ mile $= 1609$ meters
- $m = 1$ stone $\rightarrow$ 6.35 kilograms $\rightarrow$ weight $= mg = (6.35kg) * (9.8m/sec^2) = 62.2$ newtons

1 milestone $= mgh = 1.0 \times 10^5$ Joules.

We also know that:

- 1 kilowatt-hour $= 3.6 \times 10^6$ Joules
- 1 kilowatt-hour costs 8.15 cents in Los Alamos
- 1 sheet of paper costs 2 cents (cheapest paper I could find in a local stationary store)

So, the cost of a milestone is $(1.0 \times 10^5$ J/milestone$) \times (8.15$ cent/kW-hr$) \times (1$ kW-hr$/3.6 \times 10^6$ J$) = 0.23$ cents/milestone.

Conclusion: milestones aren't worth the paper they're written on.

This calculation of the value of a milestone is taken from a Los Alamos memo dated May 2, 1985, during the "year of administrative excellence." The original author is unknown. The conclusions are mine. I will leave the original memo's proof that it takes 3.2mW of power to produce 1 milestone per year to the reader.

John Sullivan 9-Apr-98