

Thank you for your comment, Helen OShea.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is SolarM60098.

Comment Date: July 21, 2009 11:35:10AM  
Solar Energy Development PEIS  
Comment ID: SolarM60098

First Name: Helen  
Middle Initial:  
Last Name: OShea  
Organization: Natural Resources Defense Council  
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Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record  
Attachment: NRDC Solar PEIS Extension Request.doc

Comment Submitted:



NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL

July 21, 2009

Via Solar PEIS comment form and electronic mail

Linda Resseguie  
Bureau of Land Management  
Washington D.C.  
[Linda\\_Resseguie@blm.gov](mailto:Linda_Resseguie@blm.gov)

Request for Additional Time to Comment on Solar Energy Study Areas

Dear Ms. Resseguie:

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), a non-profit environmental organization with over 650,000 members nationwide, respectfully requests a 45 day extension of the comment period for *Scoping Comments for a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement to Develop and Implement Agency Specific Programs for Solar Energy Development*, 74 Fed. Reg. 31307 (June 30, 2009).

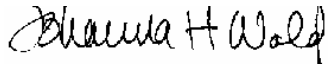
NRDC has worked to protect wildlands and natural values on public lands and to promote pursuit of cost-effective energy efficiency and sustainable energy development for many years. NRDC is very supportive of the Bureau of Land Management's focus on potential study zones for the solar programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) and appreciates the opportunity, as part of this process, to identify solutions to renewable energy siting issues that can meet the Administration's climate goals while safeguarding the nation's valuable natural and cultural resources.

The designation of 24 specific tracts of public land as Solar Energy Study Areas at this early stage in the environmental review process provides a tremendous opportunity for NRDC and other interested stakeholders to submit detailed environmental analysis and recommendations on which areas should be designated as Solar Energy Zones and which lands should be excluded. Affording us the requested additional time at the beginning of this process will benefit all concerned in the long run and will further the Administration's climate change, natural resource protection and renewable energy goals.

In closing, NRDC fully recognizes the urgent need to move forward to find appropriate areas for solar development. At the same time, we know that we must take the time necessary to plan carefully and comprehensively and to select the right places that are both protective of ecosystems, landscapes, and species and are practical for solar energy development.

Thank you in advance for consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Johanna H Wald".

Johanna Wald  
Senior Attorney

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Helen O'Shea".

Helen O'Shea  
Policy Associate

cc: Mike Pool, Acting Director, BLM  
Steve Black, Counselor to the Secretary  
Ashley Conrad-Saydah, Renewable Energy Project Manager, CA BLM