

Thank you for your comment, Nancy Boland.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is SolarM60189.

Comment Date: September 12, 2009 15:53:21PM  
Solar Energy Development PEIS  
Comment ID: SolarM60189

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Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record  
Attachment: Solar PEIS Comments.doc

Comment Submitted:



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September 16, 2009

Solar Energy PEIS  
Argonne National Laboratory  
9700 S. Cass Avenue  
EVS/900  
Argonne, IL 60439

RE: Esmeralda County Comments Solar Energy PEIS

Two of the in depth proposed Nevada study areas are within Esmeralda County, Gold Point (5,830 acres) and Millers (19,205 acres).

Millers:

1. Environmental Concerns

This area is within a water basin designated for preferred uses only. Solar development should be restricted to (dry) photovoltaic panel based projects. The Millers area is an established bird watching area and there may be wildlife issues specifically disturbing nesting areas.

2. Social/Economic Concerns

The area is closer to Tonopah Nevada in Nye County than to any community in Esmeralda County and any economic benefit from jobs would be felt in Nye County while all the costs, Public Safety, Road Maintenance, Emergency Services, and general governmental costs would be borne by Esmeralda County.

Gold Point

1. Environmental Concerns

This area is within the Lida Valley Water basin the annual yield of this basin is only 350 acre feet. Of these 240 acre feet is currently permitted for use leaving only 110 acre feet not appropriated.

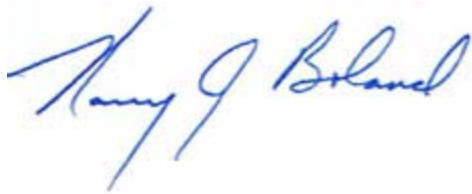
This area is serviced by the Valley Electric Cooperative and the transmission line dead ends at the community of Gold Point, Nevada. The existing lines are barely adequate to serve the needs of the approximately 20 full and part-time residents. To make any project viable either the existing transmission capacity would need to be vastly increased or new lines to provide for interconnection with NV Energy constructed. Both options will lead to a lot of disturbance as it is at least 18 miles to the NV Energy system and approximately 40 miles from the nearest substation to the study area.

### Alternative Study Areas

During the initial selection process for the PEIS the BLM land records still reflected as withdrawn two rail corridors, (Mina 1, and Mina 2) that the DOE had considered as transportation routes for Yucca Mountain. Because these were still shown as withdrawn many areas within Esmeralda County that otherwise would have been suitable could not be considered.

Esmeralda County respectfully requests that the U.S. Department of Energy and the Bureau of Land Management either substitute, or add some of these areas as shown on the map which accompanies this submission. These areas are in known geothermal resources which have not as yet been fully explored. These resources could be combined with solar parabolic trough development benefiting development of both sources. The areas are closer to existing communities in our county in all cases but one already connected to the NV Energy grid.

Respectfully submitted,



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Nancy J. Boland, Chair and Primary Representative Solar PEIS Cooperating Agency

