

Thank you for your comment, Austin Puglisi.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is SolarM60009.

Comment Date: July 4, 2009 19:27:12PM  
Solar Energy Development PEIS  
Comment ID: SolarM60009

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Attachment:

Comment Submitted:

This is the fourth and final comment I wish to make on the PEIS process.

This comment discusses a factor not mentioned on the Solar PEIS website, which is due process.

The residents, municipalites, business interests, and environmental groups based in the Mojave and Great Basin Deserts have been denied representation in the decision-making process.

While I am grateful for the opportunity to post comments to the BLM during this scoping period, it is no more of an opportunity than would be extended to a utility company based in China. The American citizens who have the most to lose from multiple industrial-scale energy projects (and the associated transmission lines which would need to be built) have had no say in which lands are being considered. Industry lobbyists, nonlocal environmental groups, and unelected public officials far from the desert are deciding our fate, while we sit and wonder.

Will high-voltage transmission lines cross our communities? Will we lose my lands to eminent domain because the BLM approved a project next door? Will tourists (and their money) still come to the desert? Will Hollywood still want to film in the desert? Will OHV riders tear up our private lands because they have lost their designated legal riding areas? Will there be enough water to grow our crops? Will the bighorn sheep and desert tortoise be sacrificed for someone else's vision of "the greater good"?

Climate change is a very real and a very immediate problem. Living in the hottest and driest part of the United States, we are very aware of the urgency with which we need to address climate change. But we are outraged that we have been unable to participate in finding solutions. Destroying the Mojave Desert in order to save it, without giving a voice to those who know it best, is sheer folly. We expect better from a Government that supposedly represents us.