

July 14, 2008 - PO Box 17862, Phoenix, Arizona 85011-0862

Solar Energy Development Programmatic EIS Scoping
Argonne National Laboratory EVS/900
9700 South Cass Avenue
Argonne, Illinois 60439

Dear BLM Staff:

Thank you for sending the agency staff to Phoenix on June 24, 2008 to spur solar energy development between the Public, utilities, solar-development companies and the BLM. The U.S.A. is severely behind other nations in solar development as politics ruined most efforts of the 1980s. Concerning energy uses solar must become a very prominent source to produce clean energy in our nation.

My name is Donald "Don" Begalke and I have been engaged in some energy issues in Arizona before the Arizona Corporation Commission occasionally since 1978. Not an energy industry professional, my involvements existed civically based on issue and available time. In Arizona efforts have engaged me in many environmental issues, especially over the last 15-20 years.

Internet access and technology is limited as I do not have my own PC etc. Access and emailing capacity are via a public library program, and the library facilities which have limitations. Have been able to use the website, <http://solareis.anl.gov>, to sign up for receiving updates and informations as the PEIS advances. However, have learned with the help of the public librarian that sending this scoping letter and being able to have a copy in an emailing folder was impossible. Thus, this letter today is my scoping letter to you. May BLM Staff develop an email address to be used for additional comments for all parties engaged in this PEIS, and for other needs in communications during the PEIS progress.

The initial thought^d that a Bureau-wide solar energy development program should be reality is a "big-YES". Current energy needs makes that comment a no-brainer. A beginning is this PEIS as we must start somewhere, and then follow through expeditiously to have mass solar energy productions ~~(in mass)~~.

My comments are centered on Arizona because my knowledges regarding the other states in this PEIS are minimal.

Environmentally, detailed statements will come from environmental organizations and the agency's records. My cursory comments involve: **(1)** strongly protect wildlife, special plantlife, bedstreams and fish, use effluents as much as possible in solar plant operations because waters are critical for all in Arizona.

Definitely protect tribal cultural sites, an^d other^d valued American cultural^s important to folks. Those protections will not diminish the the huge energy that can be produced on BLM lands.

These efforts must result positively with numerous impacts on the American population. Socioeconomically, folks must understand the clean-air benefits, they must see and tour operations, must understand the employment benefits and other national and personal economic benefits etc.

(please, go to Page 2 of these comments - over).

Solar plant production should result now from these PEIS efforts. The Arizona Public Utility announced its first solar plant recently. That project is on private land, but private land is limited in Arizona.

On July 10, 2008 Ms. Kathleen Depukat, Project Manager, at the BLM Phoenix District Office at 21605 N. 7th Ave, Phoenix was gracious to listen to my solar plant suggestion, and she provided a 1995 BLM Map for Surface/Mineral Management Stati titled "Arizona Salome" to assist me in explaining a solar plant along Interstate-10 in Arizona. The map is bar-coded with a U.S. Geological Survey number "ISBN 0-607-86117-7" above the bars and below a "9 780607 861174".

There are Az. State Trust Lands adjacent to and intermixed with BLM lands along I-10 in Az. Beginning with the western half of "T3N, R12W" the land is relatively flat or sloping or rolling for placement of a solar energy electricity production plant. Stages of a plant can be built into "T3N" and both "R13W" and R14W". The plant can be constructed on both sides of I-10, and the number of acres north/south from the highway may vary a depth.

An existing transmission corridor is in the area, to transmit the produced solar electricity to the Palo Verde (Nuclear Station) Hub's Hassayampa Substation via the Harquahala Junction Substation, which the Arizona Public Service has already received approval for from the Arizona Corporation Commission. I recommend a separate transmission line from ~~from~~ the solar plant to the HJS that would extend approximate 25 miles depending on the location of the solar plant switchyard.

The Palo Verde Nuclear Power Plant uses effluent water in its operation, and that effluent comes from the Phoenix metropolitan communities. As the local population has grown significantly, more effluent ~~and~~ be transported west for the solar plant. Effluent pipeline from the PVNPP to the solar plant would be 40 miles. Additionally, as the Central Arizona Project (water from the Colorado River) is also in the same area - the canal generally parallels I-10 through the area. CAP water would preferably be used limitedly like in an emergency or during a special effluent pipeline repair or test.

Solar plant operations also can possibly be sited south of I-10 in the area of "T3N" in "R15W" and/or "R16W". The plants south of the I-10 would provide additional protections to the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge, the Eagletail Mountains Wilderness and the New Water Mountains Wilderness.

Besides the Arizona Public Service Company, both the Salt River Project and the Tucson Electric Power ~~could~~ use the solar electricity power from the plant or plants produced by one or more of the solar power companies operating the plants along the I-10 west of Phoenix, mostly if not all in La Paz County, Arizona.

The BLM Solar Dev. PEIS is very good, and BLM coordination to establish solar plants immediately after the PEIS is completed is vital to energy in America. Thank you for receiving and using my comments and suggestion.

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