

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

3550 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85012
602-771-8500 Ph.
602-771-8681 Fax



JANET NAPOLITANO
Governor

HERBERT R. GUENTHER
Director

July 7, 2008

Solar Energy Development Programmatic EIS Scoping
Argonne National Laboratory, EVS/900
9700 S. Cass Avenue
Argonne, IL 60439

Re: Scoping Comments, Solar Energy Development Programmatic EIS

The Arizona Department of Water Resources (Department) has reviewed the "Notice of Intent To Prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement To Evaluate Solar Energy Development, Develop and Implement Agency-Specific Programs, Conduct Public Scoping Meetings, Amend Relevant Agency Land Use Plans, and Provide Notice of Proposed Planning Criteria" dated May 29, 2008 and we submit the following comments.

Under Arizona law:

"The director [Department of Water Resources] has general control and supervision of surface water, its appropriation and distribution, and of groundwater to the extent provided by this title, except distribution of water reserved to special officers appointed by courts under existing judgments or decrees."

Arizona Revised Statutes § 45-103

The Department of Water Resources is thus the appropriate state authority for Argonne National Laboratory and the Bureau of Land Management to work with regarding water resources in Arizona in development of the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) and associated planning activities.

The Department believes that the PEIS should include descriptions of the water supply requirements (including quantity, quality, opportunity for reuse, and disposal) for the types of solar power plants under consideration. Best water conservation technology by solar plant type should be identified as well. Analysis of alternatives should include direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to water supplies and rights to water.

The Department suggests that Argonne National Lab and BLM maintain close coordination with the Department as they develop the subject Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement associated documents. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Bill Werner at 602-771-8412.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Herbert R. Guenther".

Herbert R. Guenther
Director