

Thank you for your comment, Alexander Lofft, MBA.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is SolarS50037.

Comment Date: June 26, 2008 01:25:33AM  
Solar Energy Development PEIS  
Comment ID: SolarS50037

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While environmental impacts on any project on public lands need to be assessed, some projects clearly will have smaller and shorter term negative impacts than others. I understand there is a bureaucratic move afoot to slow or bury certain solar projects under the guise of environmental impacts and that the real reason is the keen interest of the oil and gas companies to prevent alternative operations from occupying lands they might have a chance of drilling.

Don't get me wrong, I am a big fan of natural gas development, particularly in the light of displacing coal. However, I believe the new energy technologies, some of which might be installed on BLM lands, should be not only encouraged, but fast tracked. Besides, solar ties in to our need to expand electrical generation for stationary power needs and may help alleviate the upward pressure on natural gas prices from its increased use in this arena, allowing its rollout in the transportation sector. There is also little reason these interests cannot coexist, since one is mainly surface and the other subsurface.

Point being, the environmental impacts from solar projects are clearly less than any mining operation so should not be treated the same way. Put the solar projects review on the fast track and let's get back in the business of creating high tech, high wage jobs here at home.