

Thank you for your comment, Jonathan Popham.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is SolarS50042.

Comment Date: June 27, 2008 11:25:01AM
Solar Energy Development PEIS
Comment ID: SolarS50042

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I am very much opposed to the decision of the Bureau of Land Management to place a two year moratorium on new solar energy projects on public lands, ostensibly for the reason of conducting a study on the environmental impacts of such projects. The solar energy industry needs to move forward. Now. Like any industry in its infancy, it needs the help of the government in the form of relaxed interference in order to grow into a viable business in the future. When you take into account the enormous energy needs of the United States, along with the now stated goal of both political parties to ween this nation from imported oil, this foolish decision to impede development of the solar energy industry is frankly somewhat astounding.

One question that pops forward is "Why wasn't this done before?". Surely the Bureau was aware that petroleum is a finite resource and that the vast public lands of the United States, with so many lying in desert areas that receive huge amounts of sunlight annually, could be a viable source of electricity down the line. Secondly, why declare a moratorium? These industries need to move forward right now. Throwing up a stop sign just when the public and investors are finally getting serious about solar power, frankly has the appearance of impropriety.

Obviously, the environmental impact of projects on public land needs to be taken into account. But placing a moratorium on an industry that is vital to the future energy needs of this country is not an option. I strongly urge the Bureau to reconsider this decision immediately. I will also be contacting my Senators and Representative to urge close scrutiny on both the Bureau and this decision.

Sincerely,
Jonathan R. Popham