

Thank you for your comment, deborah dozier.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is SolarS50367.

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Solar Energy Development PEIS
Comment ID: SolarS50367

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Comment Submitted:

July 14, 2008

West-wide Energy Corridor DEIS
Argonne National Laboratory
9700 S. Cass Avenue
Building 900, Mail Stop 4
Argonne, IL 60439

Re: Scoping Comments on the Solar Energy Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept and fully consider these scoping comments. I am a taxpayer, a homeowner and a voter in the rural Mojave Desert in Eastern San Bernardino County. I love the unbroken vistas and I need the relative peace and quiet because I am a severely disabled retiree. I sank every penny into this place and I really have no hope, in this current market for recovery of the cost of transforming an abandoned homestead claim shack into my home. Now I am told that I the land around me will be swallowed up by rampant industrialization and I will be forced to live in the middle of an industrial zone, created solely to prevent panic over the loss of oil and to send power to cities that refuse to conserve. I need to be assured that any solar generating plant will be as large a benefit to my community as it will be a drain on our public resources and a degradation of our neighborhoods. Lately, the phrase, "there's nothing out there" has been used in reference to the Desert and is bandied about as if it is true and needs no justification. Well, HELLO, I am out here. My friends and neighbors are out here too, and to hear my community referred to as "nothing" feels unnecessarily rude. We are something and our lives have value as the are. Before you dismiss that value I ask you to fully consider the effects on my humble community.

We need solar power. Make no mistake. This Country took a bad turn when the Carter administration's dreams for energy independence were flushed down the oil pipeline. That said, I don't think turning over the uncontrolled development of solar power generating sites to satisfy an industry hungry for energy profits is good for America unless it is good for all Americans. The development of solar power generating sites on public and private lands should be highly scrutinized in every aspect and reevaluated at every step of the process. Here are my objections to unregulated development of solar power in the deserts.

? Industrial style-solar generating plants will assure the degradation of my neighborhood and will result in a drop in the desirability of my location. This will cause a further decline in property values.

? I suspect any solar generating facility will raise the ambient temperature in the area where the power is generated, and this will force local energy usage up.

? These facilities will not create an beneficial new source of long-term employment for my community.

? Our communities will experience an upsurge in crime and violence often associated with transient labor populations.

? There are abundant existing rooftops in Southern California that can bear the weight of solar- generating panels without

destroying any more land. They should be used.

? There is not adequate water in the desert to sustain such development.

? The carbon footprint for all of the construction and set up these huge solar factories in remote locations substantially offsets any gains made by using solar generation.

? Undisturbed lands need to remain undisturbed. There are many tracts of land that are “waste” land in and near the urban centers that want the power.

? Creating large solar generating plants weakens America’s energy security, by making large disruptions of power easily accomplished with little effort.

? The drain on solar generating materials, which are expensive and hard to obtain for citizens looking for individual energy independence, will drive up prices for average citizens like myself, thus keeping me dependent on the existing grid.

? The creatures who cannot speak in their own defense, the desert tortoise, the kangaroo rat, the smoke tree, the acacia, the round-tailed squirrel, the tarantula, and all of the other life that will be wasted to install these solar plants and the transmission highways needs to be represented.

? The disruption of native land creates a favorable environment for invasive species that are already indicated in the increased intensity of wildfires in the West.

? Transmission corridors will allow access by vehicles into places previously free from off-road vehicle abuse that is the genesis of erosion, increased fire danger, increased costs of medical evacuation, and importation of non-native species.

In general, we need solar power, but I believe we only need a very small amount of solar power generated in huge solar farms. We need to incorporate solar technology into the homes we live in and the buildings we work in, not give over control of our energy resources to yet another series of corporate hands that will throw us overboard when it is fiscally and/or politically convenient.

Thank you,

Deborah Dozier, PhD