

Thank you for your comment, Donna Tisdale.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is SolarS50423.

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Solar Energy Development PEIS
Comment ID: SolarS50423

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Here are my major concerns with remote solar generation projects in general:

The moratorium on new solar applications should not have been lifted. BLM does not have adequate staff to review all of the renewable energy projects, including wind, solar, geothermal, plus revise all of the land use plans as necessary to accommodate the new projects. In Eastern San Diego County, the BLM reduced our Visual Resource Management classification, unjustifiable, to accommodate a foreign wind company who had a right of way for over 17,000 acres. I hate to see that happen elsewhere--I know it will!

Technology is changing so fast, we are already building tomorrow's obsolete project today. See article at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/7501476.stm>

regarding new solar dyes that will revolutionize the generation of solar energy. It appears that it will be cheaper and less environmentally destructive to install solar on the already, and to-be-built environment--instead of destroying desert areas and building hundreds of miles of transmission lines through protected areas and rural low-income communities--using eminent domain. Which raises concerns with existing and new easements that will cross not only public lands but many private properties as well. We are facing this issue in Eastern San Diego County as well, with over 20 miles of new transmission lines.

Most of today's solar projects are proposed for BLM land in the desert where water is a scarce and valuable commodity. It is critical to determine how much water will be used, where the water will come from, at what price, and what other water users will be impacted by its diversion to solar projects. Is there a viable contract confirming the availability of that water source and for how long?

In Imperial Valley, CA, will farmland be fallowed? Will potable water or recycled water be used? Will water be used that would otherwise go towards replenishing the Salton Sea as mandated in the farm-city water transfer agreement between Imperial Irrigation District and San Diego?

What about the gas and gas lines that will be needed for those projects that have integrated CSP/combined cycle gas turbine plants for backup generation? Are there utility easements allowing for gas lines or will new ones need to be approved?

Who will monitor how much energy is being produced with renewable sources or with the fossil-fuel sources? Who will monitor the price paid for energy from a site that has both renewable and fossil-fuel generation. Renewable energy brings a higher price. Will cheaters be able to charge the same high rate for gas-fired energy.

There needs to be a mandatory requirement/bonding for abandoned renewable energy projects to be removed from public lands at the developer's expense--not the taxpayers'.

There should be a national mandate for feed-in tariffs at fair market value so that individual Americans can not only participate but actually get paid for helping to solve our nation's energy needs--instead of forcing us to subsidize for-profit companies to clutter up our public lands at give-away prices.