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Comment Date: July 14, 2008 22:14:37PM

Solar Energy Development PEIS

Comment ID: SolarS50432

First Name: [Withheld by requestor]

Middle Initial:

Last Name: [Withheld by requestor]

Organization:

Address: [Withheld by requestor]

Address 2:

Address 3:

City: [Withheld by requestor]

State: [Withheld by requestor]

Zip: [Withheld by requestor]

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Email: [Withheld by requestor]

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Attachment: comment 14july08.doc

Comment Submitted:

[See Attachment.](#)

Thank you for considering my comments.

Ever since I was a child I have favored solar as a viable alternative energy. I am glad that DOI and DOE are pursuing, and hope they realize that its development is intended to minimize our impact on the environment as well as make us independent of traditional energy sources. I am sure DOE and DOI thus realize that the solution does not mean simply, grading a bunch of habitat and adding solar fields. The sensible solution is to use existing developed lands for solar power generation. Massive solar fields may often prove inferior to 'distributed generation' (term borrowed from your site to indicate a long-standing concept).

The analysis should include a cost-benefit analysis for siting each combination of particular type of solar power generation (e.g., PV, CSP) and siting (e.g. distributed generation). This analysis would include long term costs to set aside and disturb land, pristine versus previously used (e.g., fallow fields). The results of such cost-benefit analysis could then be applied at the various 'tiers' mentioned on site ('one shoe does not fit all', but the accountants and engineers are smart enough to cost out the various scenarios).

The powerpoint presentation on the website was a bit misleading in that it presents certain forms of solar as dispatchable and others as nondispatchable. Lots of these solar technologies can store the energy in batteries, not just in physical heat capacity of salt or water. Storing such heat also increases infrastructure on site.

Considering the massive areas required for the commercial scale arrays, they will require development of considerable land. Only previously developed land (e.g., fallow fields) should be considered, to minimize effects on natural, cultural, aesthetic and other types of resources.

The massive areas of towns, cities, office complexes and installations have considerable area, especially rooftops, that could support panels or arrays. This would minimize destruction of quality, sometimes pristine, habitat and cultural resources. This energy can be fed back to the 'grid' using existing infrastructure (power lines), making energy production with little or no habitat destruction. In essence, to meet the proposed goals of solar energy development with little or no impact on natural, cultural or other resources, distributed generation appears the best approach.