

Thank you for your comment, Raymond Hiemstra.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is SolarS50514.

Comment Date: July 15, 2008 11:29:26AM
Solar Energy Development PEIS
Comment ID: SolarS50514

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Comment Submitted:

Dear Sirs,

As a property owner in the California desert I would like to stress the importance of addressing the issue of sprawl of solar facilities in the PEIS. Far from being a empty place the desert is actually highly utilized when you consider its carrying capacity. The type of facilities that are beign proposed are mainly large concentrating type solar facilities that will require significant water resources and take up large quanities of land. I think that it is important that areas that have been previously disturbed or developed be the first priority for development of these facilities. This should include the requirement for the use of private property that could be purchased by the project proponents if it is available (I stress available not free or cheep). If the facilities are placed on public land, a fair market cost for the property should be charged. We do not want to end up with another land fiasco as has occured in the past with grazaing/mining rights. Additionally the facilities should be adjacent to currently existing roads and power lines. We need to develop solar energy resources, howerer scattering a large number of facilities across the desert will be more detremental than beneficial. All projects for the desert should be weighed against the preferred option of photovolatic solar power units on the millions of roofs in the developed parts of the west. We need to protect all our desert water and wildlife resources, secenic vistas , and sense of place while we meet the energy needs of our country .

Sincerely,

Raymond Hiemstra