

Thank you for your comment, John Simpson.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is SolarS50670.

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Solar Energy Development PEIS
Comment ID: SolarS50670

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Attachment: SolarPEIScomments.doc

Comment Submitted:

[See Attachment.](#)

DESERT COMMUNITIES ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

July 15, 2008

Solar Energy PEIS Scoping
Argonne National Laboratory
9700 S. Cass Ave. – EVS/900
Argonne IL 60439

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Energy Policy Committee of the Desert Communities Association of Realtors appreciates the opportunity to comment on the scope of the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

We are very concerned with the cumulative impacts of solar energy projects on public lands. We urge the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to undertake the most comprehensive study possible, as the potential negative impacts are permanent. While we understand that these comments apply only to solar projects, we are compelled to point out that the cumulative impacts of solar projects, wind projects, transmission lines projects, mining claims and military base expansions must be studied together to obtain useful results.

As champions of property rights and property value, we cannot support a policy that would negatively impact property values and encourage the use of eminent domain. The location of the proposed energy projects would create loss of open spaces and recreational lands, and the loss of views, which have negative impacts on property values. In addition, the associated transmission lines projects would encourage the use of eminent domain for the taking of private property. This is a direct and unnecessary assault on private property rights.

These negative impacts are unavoidable and inseparable from the system of remote generation and transmission of energy. Conspicuously absent from the decision making forum is the seemingly obvious alternative of localized generation (e.g. rooftop solar, commercial and residential). Until every rooftop and parking lot has been utilized, the taking of public lands for energy should not even be considered.

Information recently made available by the Environmental Policy Agency concludes that all of California's renewable energy goals can be achieved on previously disturbed sites known as brown fields and superfund sites. Adding

to that the potential for localized generation, which increases property values and eliminates the use of eminent domain for new transmission lines, the use of undisturbed public lands for energy becomes unthinkable.

We Realtors recognize the growing need for renewable energy and at the same time ask the BLM to undertake the appropriate scope of study that results in a true analysis of alternatives. This means that the negative impacts on property values and property rights caused by remote generation and transmission, versus the positive impacts caused by localized generation, must be a primary consideration and fully analyzed.

We thank you for your consideration of these very important issues as they directly relate to the public interest.

Respectfully submitted,

John M. Simpson, Realtor®
Energy Policy Committee
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