

Thank you for your comment, Guy Welch.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is SolarS50048.

Comment Date: June 28, 2008 09:32:56AM  
Solar Energy Development PEIS  
Comment ID: SolarS50048

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Since I can remember. My family and I have been directly involved in the pursuit and promotion of solar and wind energy. We were the first people on our block (in 1978) to install a solar hot water heating system (which worked magnificently by the way, in Michigan no less).

Recent news of the US Bureau of Land Management's suspension of all new solar energy projects on federal land for the next two years, until it completes an environmental impact review seems drastic, and overreaching. In truth, it seems to me that the BLM is, in typical bureaucratic form, trying to kill innovation that will help the USA become more energy independent. This action makes me immediately suspicious of what is going on inside the BLM (and I am by no means, a conspiracy theorist). I guess what I am trying to say is, as involved as the BLM is in mineral development and oil exploration (and the hugely profitable companies involved therein), it is suspicious to me that the bureau would hinder development of the solar frontier, which seems to only benefit the destructive (and again, profitable) fossil fuel industry. It reeks of corruption and is causing quite a stir out here with people that would like to see our country move in the direction of not only energy independence, but a clean, renewable future.

All that said, I would like to know why, in short, that the BLM must suspend ALL new solar energy projects on federal land. Why can't the bureau allow innovation to continue on our land while this "environmental impact review" gets under way? It seems as though a compromise could be struck with the companies that are trying to use federal land to ween us off the polluting fossil fuel dependancy we have in the USA. I'm just curious as to what environmental red flags have been raised to prompt this action from the BLM. In this era where powerful forces are pushing hard for the potentially disastrous expansion of offshore oil exploration and drilling in the ANWR, why is the bureau trying to hinder the development of technology that could potentially help render these things unnecessary while being a huge boon to our environment? I do understand the need for developing a PEIS, both legally and environmentally, but it seems as though, in this critical time of our energy emergency and the resultant deterioration of both our environment and economy, we could have a strategy for allowing new solar projects at the same time.

Thank you in advance, for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,  
Guy Welch  
Photographer, Expectant Father, Concerned Citizen