

Thank you for your comment, Terry Finefrock.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is SolarS50146.

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Solar Energy Development PEIS  
Comment ID: SolarS50146

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Comment Submitted:

The Open Hearing in Tucson July 8, 2008 was very well done. Your efforts to educate interested parties regarding your plan and values and to invite their comments is commendable. I believe that you are sincere in your efforts to establish Utility Scale Solar Electric generation which is also what I believe should be done. Good job.

Eventually, as solar components reach product maturity and mass demand/production, I am confident that they will produce kWh for about what we are paying for fossil fuel generated electricity today. They will also reach parity the cost to produce electricity utilizing fossil fuel before they reach maturity. At that time, the technology and/or products can be sold to China, India and other developing nations and markets, significantly reducing the demand for fossil fuels & global greenhouse gases. That would support the objectives of the Kyoto global summit, and allow President Bush to make the commitment desired by that group. Would clearly demonstrate American leadership and improve world perception of America.

I like the programmatic approach, however we need more electricity and generating plants NOW, before we have a shortage in addition to much higher costs. Many people with fixed incomes are already hammered by cost of fuel and increased costs to generate electricity. Our citizens depend on government to make strategic decisions on their behalf to protect them from suffering and harm. Too late to avoid the crises, but I'd suggest that BLM actions incorporate policy to mitigate and abbreviate the damage and duration of the crisis.

Please consider the following suggestions:

- 1) BLM and DOE policy include the monitoring of any applications to build any new fossil fuel generating plants and electric generating capacity where Public Lands and solar energy could be used, prioritize and approve the processing of any applications for BLM and solar that could satisfy the need, or encourage the fossil fuel plant applicant to use solar.
- 2) Prioritize the processing of applications to use BLM Land/Solar to generate electricity from regulated utilities that include a capital payback period, similar to that defined by a Power Purchase Agreement, where at the completion of the payback period the facilities are owned by the Ratepayers. Essentially transition from privately held Utilities to Cooperatives, ratepayers own the assets, we pay for only Management, Operating and Maintenance costs/services, reasonable fee. If service issues exist, can easily replace the Management firm, competitive "bid" for those services.
- 3) As you acknowledge, cost of land is a major factor in price of PV and Solar thermal projects, and subsequent price/kWh. So, the no or low cost licensing of use of land is important.

4) To facilitate and accelerate the review of applications for use of BLM Land to generate electricity using solar technology, I'd suggest you augment BLM staff and resources by organizing regional evaluation committees comprised of County or other appropriate Agency Staff. It is likely that they are already informed regarding sensitive issues, regional culture, and have access to needed information. BLM would provide guidelines regarding your values, evaluation criteria/weighting, and provide a form to be used to report the Evaluation Committees recommendation. That form could include the information needed to define Program guidelines. BLM would perform the final evaluation and disposition of the application.

Sincerely,  
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