

Thank you for your comment, Lisa Cyriacks.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is SolarS50579.

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Solar Energy Development PEIS
Comment ID: SolarS50579

First Name: Lisa
Middle Initial:
Last Name: Cyriacks
Organization: San Luis Valley Citizens Alliance
Address: PO Box 352
Address 2:
Address 3:
City: Crestone
State: CO
Zip: 81131
Country: USA
Email:
Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record
Attachment: SLVCA scoping comments.doc

Comment Submitted:

[See Attachment.](#)

San Luis Valley Citizens Alliance
PO Box 352
Crestone, CO 81131
www.slvcitizensalliance.org
719-256-6007

July 14, 2008

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), Department of Energy (DOE); and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Department of the Interior (DOI), Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) to evaluate utility-scale solar energy development. We understand the historic opportunity this provides to be a part of this precedent-setting process, and we are grateful to participate.

Following are the issues and concerns we believe the agencies should address in this process:

1. Public lands belong to the public, and their use should benefit the public. Therefore, there should be a limit to the amount of private profit that can be “taken” from the use of public lands to produce an “essential-for-life” commodity. While energy development is clearly in the public interest, excessive profit, narrowly distributed, just as clearly is not. As a matter of responsible governance, we should not continue to propagate the exploitation of public land, people and taxpayer dollars in the manner represented by the current relationship between some Federal agencies and many non-renewable energy developers. It would be better to leave the public lands undisturbed.
2. Roads necessary for construction and operation of plants should be well-planned, constructed and maintained to minimize negative impacts and protect wildlife.
3. Alternatives to this scraping the land need to be established as a component of determining “best management practices” for utility-scale solar development, thereby minimizing which is a real public health and safety hazard .
4. On the scale that solar generation facilities are being considered, we would ask that both per plant and cumulative potential impacts of installations be studied and adequately considered as part the project assessment process.
5. Consideration of the impacts to all of the various interests and life forms that make up a vibrant community - this includes wildlife, hydrology, air quality, vegetation, soil, visual resources, sociology, economics, outdoor recreation and archaeology expertise, as well as solar energy - at the local level will go far to ensure that the development of solar energy truly serves our shared goal of healthy, sustainable energy sources.
6. Many of the locations targeted for these facilities in the 6 stipulated Western states are desert areas. Therefore, a thorough and realistic assessment of water use, maximum application of available water conservation measures, and the appropriate sourcing of the water requirement is essential for the viability of any utility-scale solar facility.
7. Full disclosure of any toxic/hazardous materials.
8. Make sure every location receives an EA and if there's an EIS, it needs EPA review.

9. Review all hardware (solar) installers for each installation (one installer that works in one state may not be applicable for other locations)
10. Please address how the installer is chosen for a specific location.
11. Evaluate local economy/needs, not just the land
12. Evaluate local culture for each project
13. Do not allow big business or one corporation to monopolize the panels and all the electrical hardware installations and maintenance. Local installers need to be part of the program.
14. Where oil/gas drilling permits conflict with solar possibilities - always choose solar or other renewable sources
15. Please address how the sizing is determined for a specific location