Comment EFSEC

12-12-17

Fred Scarlett
1860 Mellergaard Rd
Ellensburg

I am opposed to the projects based on the following:

1. Removal of Farm Agland for Future generations' livihood.
   - Non-irrigated land is available for solar generation use - the wind-generated projects are located in these areas
2. Disruption of Community to sustain an agricultural base.
3. Subsidized, outside, Commercial venture - Subsidized by the local PUD or electrical supply customers who are obligated to transmit + or purchase power over existing assets.
4. December 12 - public hearing - the middle of Christmas season ~~reduced~~ reduced turnout
*5. Project is not consistent with current land use - min. Full hearing needed -
6. Site is located on ~~drainage~~ water drainage
7. Public comment from TUUSSO
   1. Under-Funded - need to locate Central Valley
   2. Unwilling to work with County Commissers

See back

EFSEC
ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

Columbia Solar Project
Public Informational Meeting
December 12, 2017

The Columbia Solar Project is an alternative energy proposal by TUUSSO Energy, LLC (TUUSSO). The five solar project sites are named as follows: Camas, Fumaria, Penstemon, Typha and Urtica.

Commenter Information (Please print)

Name: Fran Scarlett

Organization: (optional)

Street Address: 1860 Mellergaard

Add to Project mailing list? (If yes please provide mailing address)

Apt # City: Elensburg

☐ Yes ☐ No

State: WA Zip Code: 98926

Add to Project email list? (If yes please provide email address)

Email:

☐ Yes ☐ No

Comment subject/Issue: Opposed to Urtica land use

Comment:

Urtica - glare
- 50 acres - Asthetics

- This project is not consistent with local agriculture + land use. 50 acres of solar panels facing south will be aimed at my family's home.
- Local, irrigated farm land must not be traded for Seattle + commercial electrical needs.
- Expert testimony admitted solar projects produce "blinding" glare. "New" technology indicated glare would not be a concern - sounds untried + unproven. There will be glare

Sign

See back side

(Please use reverse side if you run out of room)
Thank you for your participation!

DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

SOUTHEAST REGION
713 BOWERS ROAD
ELLENSBURG, WA 98926

509-925-8510
TRS 711
SOUTHEAST.REGION@DNR.WA.GOV
WWW.DNR.WA.GOV

September 28, 2017

Dan Carlson
Community Development Services
411 N Ruby Street, Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Subject: Department of Natural Resources Support of Solar Projects

Dear Mr. Carlson:

I'm writing to express the Washington State Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) interest in developing solar power leasing on lands in Kittitas County managed by DNR. We have identified sites within Kittitas County where solar development could compliment or improve current management activities and provide a new revenue stream for Washington's Common Schools, one of the fiduciary trusts managed by DNR as directed by the legislature pursuant to our State Constitution.

Where DNR lands are unleased or permitted for dispersed uses such a grazing, solar power leasing presents an opportunity to generate additional income for the Common School Trust. The proceeds support school construction. These leases would also bring in new taxes to the county, as they may be centrally assessed as utilities.

Favorable conditions for solar development include areas in close proximity to power lines owned by BPA, PSE, or other power companies that do not involve habitat protected for endangered or threatened species, and avoid conflicts with cultural resources. Solar development projects would have to be permitted by the county or the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC). While DNR has not yet leased a site for solar power development, a lease could be issued after conducting a phased SEPA. Once leased, the lessee would then be contractually required to get development permits (which would include additional SEPA review) before construction could commence. The County or EFSEC would likely require environmental impact studies.

If you have any questions, please contact Chad Unland, Special Use Leasing Manager, at 509-925-0935 or chad.unland@dnr.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Todd Welker
Southeast Region Manager

c: Chad Unland, Special Use manager

Preservation of Prime Irrigated Agricultural Lands

- Introduction
  - I am Dave Nerpel a Kittitas County farmer and agricultural consultant
  - Pro solar and pro renewable energy
  - I grow grass hay, cherries and asparagus...looking at other vegetable opportunities
  - My business as agricultural consultant:
    - Local: precision agriculture, computer generated GPS maps for better use of fertilizer inputs for local farmers and ag suppliers
    - US: electronic controls for exact application of crop inputs in tree crops. This activity puts me in contact with many of the largest tree crop growing companies, hops, apples and other tree fruit in the PNW and nationally: citrus, almonds, etc.
    - N America: initiating distribution of biological / organic crop care products for a France based global company
  - University of WA, BA, State University of New York, MA
  - Certified Crop Advisor, American Society of Agronomy
  - Member Kittitas County Solar Facility Advisory Committee
- Growing population in Washington, particularly western counties, also Kittitas County
  - King County 1960 (900k) vs. 2010 (1.9 million) I.e., 110% growth
  - Kittitas County 1960 (20k) vs 2010 (40k) I.e, 100% growth
  - It is reasonable to assume similar continued growth and that the need for food and agricultural commodities
- Value of agricultural products grown in this valley
  - 1960 ($16 million) 2010 ($65 million) I.e., 306% growth
  - Current ag annual revenue about $70 million, $50 million of that from hay
  - 75% of production is hay crops
  - 90% of hay crop is exported
  - As a Kittitas County farmer, proximity to WA westside markets is a major advantage. My hay customer buys from me based on proximity to North Bend.
    - Seattle to Ellensburg 107 miles, 214 mile wound trip
    - Seattle to Moses Lake 177 miles, 354 mile round trip
    - Seattle to Pasco 215 miles, 430 mile round trip
  - Multiplier effect:
    - Dollars of ag sales + $ to labor + $ crop inputs + $ purchases by all individuals and families supported by the prior. WSU 2017 'multiplier effect' estimated at 2.2 X ag sales
    - Thus the $70 million becomes $154 million in ag generated revenue

- In recent past the Kittitas Valley has been a major producer of vegetables
    - Sugar beets, sweet corn, peas and durum wheat were very important crops
    - Very high quality fresh market and chip potatoes are produced here
    - Till 25 years ago cattle generated more income that hay crops
    - In the mid-1950s there were 12,000 milk cows in the county, now none
    - Large amount of fruit now being produced in Kittitas County, that production is growing rapidly
    - "Eat local" movement encourages food production close to urban areas
    - Based on proximity to western WA market and national crop trends, a return to vegetable production is very possible, highly likely

- Our county (KRD: Kittitas Reclamation District) has roughly 60,000 acres of irrigated ground among 1.5 million total land
    - 60,000 out of 1.5 million acres comprises 4%
    - The 60,000 acres is not likely to grow because of lack of scarcity of irrigation water
    - Why would we want to subtract from that 4% for industrial development ?
    - We have a 145 year history of private and public investment in irrigation and ag infrastructure
    - From 1911 there have been large contributions of public funds
    - Included has been funds for infrastructure and services including roads and railways, WSU Cooperative Extension, federally and state funded ag commodity marketing groups
    - There are DNR trust lands and other non-irrigated acreage available for development in the County that meet solar industry siting criteria

- Solar Committee has had lots of good input
    - There has been high quality information from solar companies, Department of Fish and Wildlife, WSU, PSE and others
    - DNR: Some of our best information.
        - Tracks of DNR land are available for lease that meet all desired solar industry criteria
        - Funds from leases on DNR ground go to Washington schools
        - Mr Jeff Welker, Southeast Region DNR Manager outlined that opportunity and supplied maps of available acres. They are extensive
        - I am submitting his letter and the supporting maps as testimony
    - The county solar advisory committee will conclude work relatively soon

- **November 30th ruling by Kittitas County Judge Hooper in the solar development case brought by OneEnergy and Iron Horse Solar (projects very similar to those proposed by TUSSO). Ruling found our county officials acted correctly to disallow the solar development.**
  - ***'It is not an erroneous interpretation of law, specifically rural character, to consider whether a massive industrial project of this nature, encompassing 47.5 acres, eight feet high with large mechanized racks to follow the sun, set in the middle of treeless productive farm fields preserves rural character"***
  - **The Growth Management Act sections of the Revised Code of Washington are the law of the land.**

- **While a 'property rights' point of view that might hold that a land owner is free to do what she/he want with their lands**
  - **Major public funds have been spent to achieve the current and future agricultural productivity of Kittitas Valley Farm land**
  - **We need to look for the best decisions for current and future generations**

- **Summary:**
  - **Since people don't eat hay they may see hay ground as expendable. Our valley is a highly versatile cropping area as shown by history**
  - **There may be people in this room who could profit from the TUUSSO project going forward**
  - **There definitely are people in this room who will see losses in property value if the proposed projects go forward**
  - **Locating large industrial solar facilities on prime farm ground is a short sited**

Dave Nerpel / djnerpel@gmail.com

2101 E 1st Avenue, Ellensburg WA 98926

509-760-5411

December 12, 2017

Washington State Energy Facilities Siting Council

Dear Energy Facilities Siting Council Members:

Thank you for holding this public hearing on the proposed TUUSSO solar facilities siting in Kittitas County.

I am strongly in favor of developing solar energy. We need to move forward with building sustainable energy sources for future generations, and our county is well-placed in our state for such developments.

I also strongly support our county's agricultural economy. As stipulated in our growth management plan, we must also maintain agricultural lands for future generations. Agriculture is a major economic engine for our county and that requires irrigated lands for farming. Timothy hay, in particular, provides much income for our area. That income is cycled throughout the local economy, bringing crucial revenue to the community. Small, organic farms have also located here, providing both excellent food for us and employment for young families.

Both of solar industry and farming can co-exist here, if the placement is right. Solar farms would be an excellent use on non-irrigated lands, but should not be placed on irrigated farm land. Taxpayers have invested a huge amount of money to create irrigation in our valley and we should not throw away that investment by siting solar industry there.

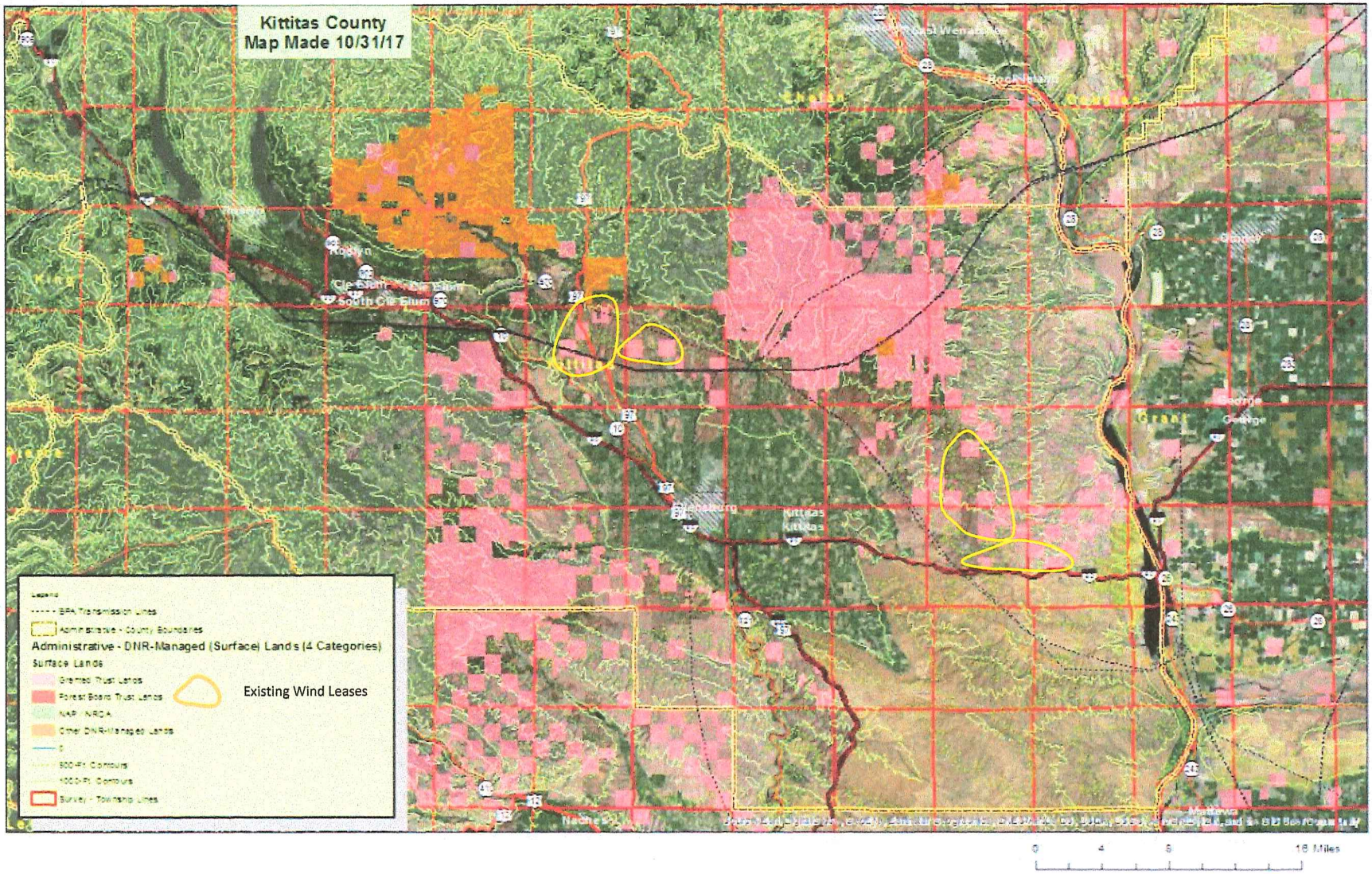
Please slow down the approval process of TUUSO ~~and wait~~ until county leaders complete the assessment that is in progress of where solar industrial sites should best be placed to include the best interests of our residents. Once the assessment in complete, I would urge you to follow the county's siting plan for solar interests.

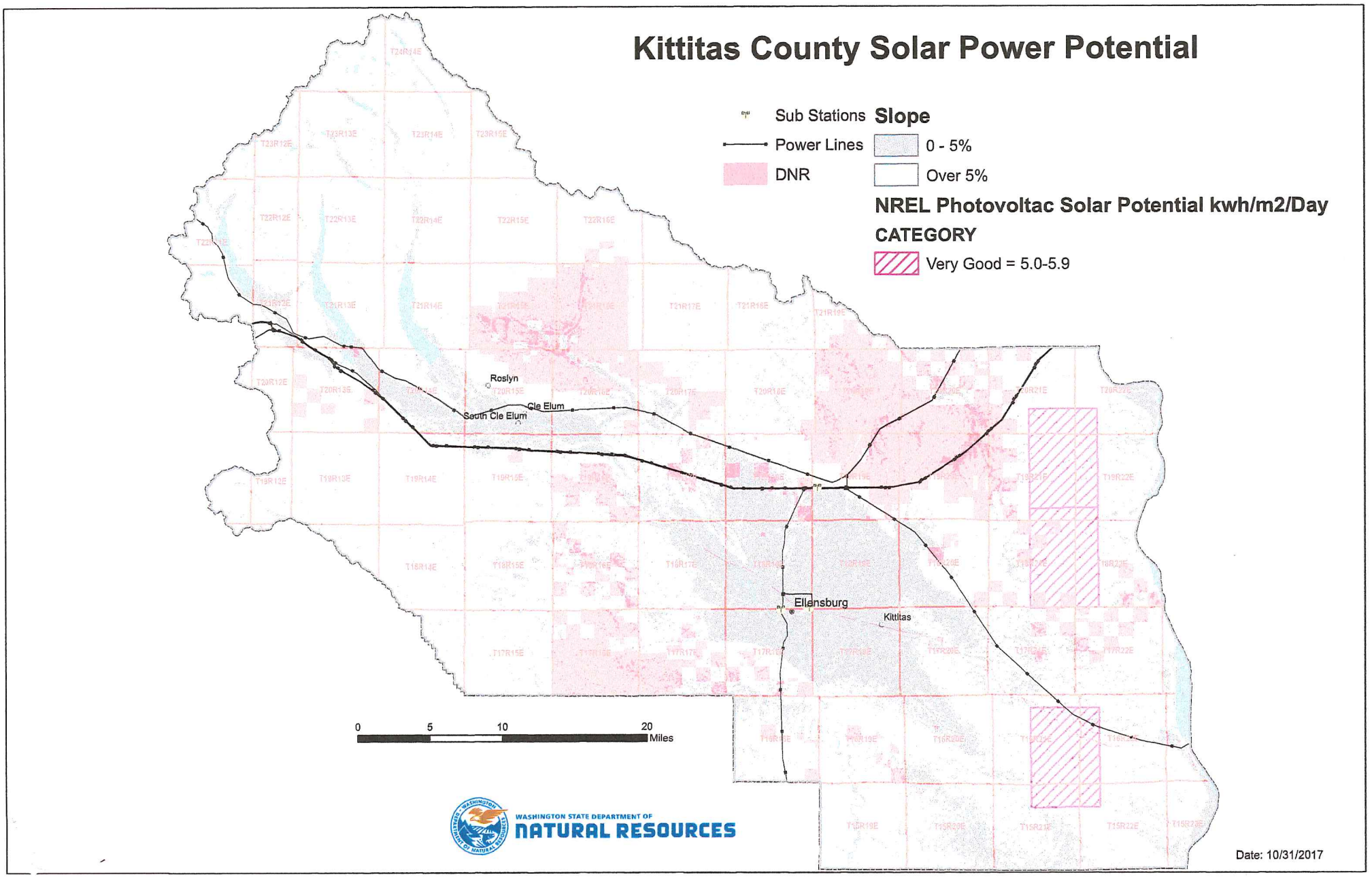
Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Linda L. Waters

1110 E. Craig Ave.
Ellensburg WA 98926
lindawaters@disputeoptions.com
509.899.2680


Kittitas County
Map Made 10/31/17
Existing Wind Leases
Administrative - DNR-Managed (Surface) Lands (4 Categories)
Surface Lands
Granted Trust Lands
Forest Board Trust Lands
Other DNR-Managed Lands
Survey - Township Lines
0
4
8
16 Miles
N


Kittitas County Solar Power Potential
Sub Stations
Power Lines
DNR
Slope
0 - 5%
Over 5%
NREL Photovoltac Solar Potential kwh/m2/Day
CATEGORY
Very Good = 5.0-5.9
Roslyn
Cle Elum
South Cle Elum
Ellensburg
Kittitas
0
5
10
20
Miles
WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES
Date: 10/31/2017

Dec. 12, 2017

I am a farmer. We have 70 acres on Number 6 Rd and 20 more on Fairview. We grow hay for cows and sheep and horses to eat!

Our neighbors are all farmers. They grow alfalfa and potatoes and hay. This is good, rich, irrigated soil. This land should grow food for people and animals.

A solar farm is not a farm. It does not need rich loam to harvest the sun's rays.

I am not against solar power, just against someone in Olympia having the right to say it is OK to ruin the land. Those solar panels look ugly, glare, and make a buzzing hum. If one farmer is allowed to sell his soul for profit... then others will follow. Pretty soon the whole valley will be solar panels as the farmer's land will have dropped so far in value that she cannot sell it as farm land.

This is just plain dumb. Put the solar panels in the hills with the rocks and the sage brush if you must. Leave the County alone to decide its regulations. You cannot eat money.

Karen Hernandez
509-925-6343

EFSEC
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Commenter Information (Please print)

Name: Benjamin Rocci

Organization: (optional)

Street Address:

Add to Project mailing list? (If yes please provide mailing address)

Apt # City:

☐ Yes ☐ No

State: Zip Code:

Add to Project email list? (If yes please provide email address)

Email:

☐ Yes ☐ No

Comment subject/Issue: Addendum to a previous comment...

Comment:

This whole debate is up on an accelerated time frame because a private corporation ~~made~~ signed a contract that has little to do with Kittitas county. It's relevance seems to have been given a consideration, while it really seems completely irrelevant to this concerned citizen.

Sign 12/12/2017

(Please use reverse side if you run out of room)
Thank you for your participation!

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Commenter Information (Please print)

Name: Debbie Young

Organization: (optional) Local business person

Street Address: 17880 Vantage Hwy WAY

Apt #

City: Ellensburg

State: WA

Zip Code: 98926

Email: mail@debbieyoungart.com

Add to Project mailing list? (If yes please provide mailing address)

~~☒ Yes ☒ No~~

Add to Project email list? (If yes please provide email address)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Comment subject/Issue: Solar farms on prime ag land.

Comment:

I would like to go on the record (as a solar and wind user - we power 2 homes with solar and wind) we love and use solar and wind power.

I do not believe it is in Kittitas Countys best interest to allow prime agricultural land to be used to site solar. There are many other options around the county that would employ more appropriate land for this purpose.

We live east of Ellensburg in the ~~[illegible]~~ sagebrush beyond irrigation. We would be happy to see Solar sited out near our home. We do not feel that it would be a negative for us. So please consider using marginal land for solar sight.

It may cost more to install since the ground may be a bit more rocky, but leases may be less expensive.

Ag/Farm land is a limited resource that can not be recreated once they are destroyed to install solar, please do not use our precious Farm land.

Thank you. Solar and agriculture can co-exsist.

Sign

(Please use reverse side if you run out of room)

Thank you for your participation!

Debbie Young

EFSEC
ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

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Commenter Information (Please print)

Name: Jim Johnson

Organization: (optional)

Street Address: 1011 E Greenfield Ave

Add to Project mailing list? (If yes please provide mailing address)

Apt # City: Ellensburg

☐ Yes ☐ No

State: WA Zip Code: 98926

Add to Project email list? (If yes please provide email address)

Email: jim.johnson41@hotmail.com

☑ Yes ☐ No

Comment subject/Issue: Siting of projects

Comment:

Placing the projects on the proposed sites removes that portion of farm land and the money it feeds into the economy in perpetuity.

This will set a precedent for siting future projects with the potential of destroying ever more irrigated, producing land.

Agriculture is a major driving force of the county economy and these projects will contribute almost nothing. It will be a loss that goes on forever.

Sign

(Please use reverse side if you run out of room)
Thank you for your participation!

Public Comment 010

Gmail

Dwight Bates <bateslee777@gmail.com>

Lee's EFSEC Solar Farm Testimony for Tuesday 12-12-17

1 message

Dwight Bates <bateslee777@gmail.com> Wed, Dec 6, 2017 at 1:16 PM
To: Marlene <marlene@elltel.net>, Dwight Bates <bateslee777@gmail.com>

I am Dwight Bates and represent myself, 150 of Brick Road on Cle Elum Hwy

I am a licensed Mechanical Engineer with the State of Washington and want to publically comment on this waste of taxpayer money. We have the only 29 percent efficient wind farms that 80 percent of Kittitas County voted against that our poorly informed Governor approved it against our votes. To build a low 20 percent efficient solar panel farm near Ellensburg is another waste of taxpayer money. If needed, I intend to speak out at hearings against this waste of money like I did about 20 times against the wasteful wind farms. Also the environmental impact is huge like the terribly ugly wind farms near Ellensburg.

I suggest to you that we use an overlay zone for future solar farms. We did this for the Wind farms. I as a Professional Engineer recommend this overlay zone to be in the Sagebrush east of Ellensburg since it is flat , not farm land and is close to a substation.

Dwight Lee Bates
P O Box 1666
Ellensburg Washington 98926
bateslee777@gmail.com
509 925 5055

EFSEC
ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

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Commenter Information (Please print)

Name: Shana Jump

Organization: (optional)

Street Address: 140 Barnes Rd.

Add to Project mailing list? (If yes please provide mailing address)

Apt # City: Ellensburg

☐ Yes ☑ No

State: Wa. Zip Code: 98926

Add to Project email list? (If yes please provide email address)

Email:

☐ Yes ☑ No

Comment subject/Issue:

Comment:

- 100% Pro Solar -

I am 100% Solar Powered.

Clean Energy !!!

Sign

(Please use reverse side if you run out of room)

Thank you for your participation!

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Commenter Information (Please print)

Name: Sandy Thomas

Organization: (optional)

Street Address: 600 S. Wilson

Add to Project mailing list? (If yes please provide mailing address)

Apt # City: Ellensburg ☒ Yes ☐ No

State: WA Zip Code: 98926

Add to Project email list? (If yes please provide email address)

Email: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Comment subject/Issue: solar farm

Comment: I currently am not in favor of building solar farms on irrigated farm land close to the Yakima River or in Badger Pocket or Tjossem Rd or the Thorp area.

From our last meeting I found out the following

1) the solar farm only lasts 30 years
2) they only take 5 or 6 months to complete construction and very few jobs will be gained
3) No mention was made of who benefits from the power. Will it reduce the cost of electricity here in Kittitas County
4) the soil and area will be ruined because of the cement + wires in the ground
5) what about the county roads during construction? Will these roads be compromised?
6) How many total acres are being considered for construction of solar farms in the future? Our County is

Sign Sandy Thomas

(Please use reverse side if you run out of room)

Thank you for your participation!

We do not need people + business representatives telling our residents of Kittitas County what to do with

Information #13

Stan Blazynski,
1811 E 3rd Ave
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Re. Solar farms, December 12, 2017 public meeting.

Excerpts from Wikipedia.

Largest German photovoltaic power stations (20 MW or larger)[43]

PV Power station	Capacity in MW_p	Notes
Solarpark Meuro	166	70 MW completed 2011, 166 MW in 2012[43]
Neuhardenberg Solar Park	145	Completed September 2012[43][44]
Templin Solar Park	128.5	Completed September 2012[43][45]
Brandenburg-Briest Solarpark	91	Commissioned in December 2011
Solarpark Finow Tower	84.7	Completed in 2010/2011
Eggebek Solar Park	83.6	Completed in 2011
Senftenberg Solarpark	82	Phase II and III completed 2011, another 70 MW phase planned[46]
Finsterwalde Solar Park	80.7	Phase I completed 2009, phase II and III 2010 [47][48]
Lieberose Photovoltaic Park	71.8	Completed in 2009[49][50]
Solarpark Alt Daber	67.8	Completed in 2011[43]
Strasskirchen Solar Park	54	Commissioned in December 2009[43]
Walddrehna Solar Park	52.3	Completed June 2012

Waldpolenz Solar Park	52	550,000 CdTe modules. Completed December 2008[51][52]
Tutow Solar Park	52	Tutow I completed in 2009, II in 2010, III in 2011
Kothen Solar Park	45	Operational since 2009
Jura Solar Park	43	Completed in 2014[53]
Jännersdorf Solar Park	40.5	Commissioned in 2012
Fürstenwalde Solar Park	39.6	Commissioned in 2011
Reckahn Solar Park	36	Completed in 2011
Perleberg Solar Park	35	Completed in 2012
Krughütte Solar Park	29.1	Completed in 2012
Solarpark Heideblick	27.5	Completed in 2011
Solarpark Eiche	26.5	Completed in 2011
Lauingen Energy Park	25.7	Completed in 2010
Pocking Solar Park	22	Completed in March 2006
Mengkofen Solar Park	21.7	Commissioned in December 2009
Rothenburg Solar Park	20	Commissioned in 2009

Solarpark Meuro is a 166 megawatt (MW) photovoltaic power station located in Meuro and Schipkau, Germany. **The plant was built on a former lignite mine**[1] and is the country's largest solar park.[2][3]

Neuhardenberg Solar Park is a 145-megawatt (MW) photovoltaic power plant, and was Europe's largest solar power station, **located at the former Neuhardenberg military airport.**[3]

Templin Solar Park is a 128 megawatt (MW) photovoltaic power station, **located at the former Templin military airport.**

Brandenburg-Briest Solarpark is photovoltaic power station, **located at a former military airfield in Brandenburg.**

Eggebek Solar Park was Germany's largest photovoltaic power station when completed in August 2011, and one of the largest in the world. The solar park is built on the site of a **former German Navy military base** {..}

Senftenberg Solarpark is a photovoltaic power station **located on former open-pit mining** areas close to the city of Senftenberg, in Eastern Germany.

Solarpark Alt Daber is a photovoltaic facility in Germany with 67.8 megawatts (MW, 90,900 hp).[1] It was completed 3 December 2011, for a cost of €100 million,[2] and is expected to produce 71 GWh/year.[3] **It is located on a former military airport.**

Walddrehna Solar Park is a 52.284 MW photovoltaic power station, which is located in Walddrehna, Brandenburg, Germany, **on a former military base.**

Waldpolenz Solar Park is a 52-megawatt (MW) photovoltaic power station built by German developer and operator Juwi **at a former military** air base near Leipzig, Eastern Germany.

Tutow Solar Park is in Demmin, Germany,[2] and is **located at Tutow Airport**

Köthen Solar Park is a photovoltaic power station in Köthen, Germany. It has a capacity of 45 megawatts (MW) and an expected annual electricity generation of 42 gigawatt-hours. The solar park was

developed and built by RGE Energy.[1]The PV project is **built on a former military airfield** in Köthen on 116 hectares (290 acres).

Jännersdorf Solar Park is a photovoltaic power station in Prignitz, Germany. The project is **built on a former military training area** on 90 hectares (220 acres).

Fürstenwalde Solar Park is a photovoltaic power station in Fürstenwalde, Germany. The PV project was **built on a former military airfield** on 89 hectares (220 acres), and was completed in 10 weeks only.

Perleberg Solar Park is a photovoltaic power station, with an installed capacity of 35 megawatts (MW). It uses 144,144 solar panels manufactured by Chinese company Yingli. The panels are mounted at a fixed angle on posts that are driven into the ground, **at a former military airport.**

Krughütte Solar Park is a 29.1-megawatt (MW) photovoltaic power station in Eisleben, Germany.It was constructed on the **site of a former copper mine**, and at over 100 hectares (247 acres) is one of the largest projects in the region.

Solarpark Heideblick is a photovoltaic power station in Heideblick, Germany.[1] The PV project is **built on a former military training field,** using ReneSola modules.

Pocking Solar Park is a photovoltaic power station in Pocking, Lower Bavaria, Germany. The power plant is located on 7.5 hectares (19 acres) **on the former military training area.**

Feed-in tariffs

Germany

Feed-in electricity tariffs (FiT) have been introduced in Germany to encourage the use of new energy technologies such as wind power, biomass, hydropower, geothermal power and solar photovoltaics. Feed-in tariffs are a policy mechanism designed to accelerate investment in renewable energy technologies by providing them remuneration (a "tariff") above the retail or wholesale rates of electricity. The mechanism provides long-term security to renewable energy producers, typically based on the cost of generation of each technology.[2] Technologies such as wind power, for instance, are awarded a lower per-kWh price, while technologies such as solar PV and tidal power are offered a higher price, reflecting higher costs.

Reckahn Solar Park is a photovoltaic power station in Reckahn, Southwest of Berlin, Germany. It has a capacity of 37.7 megawatt (MW) [...] **The FIT is 21.1 Euro cents per kilowatt-hour.**[7]

Canada.

Sarnia Photovoltaic Power Plant near Sarnia, Ontario, is Canada's largest photovoltaic plant with an installed capacity of 97 MW_P (80 MW_{AC}).[2][3][4][5]

In 2009, Ontario introduced a feed-in tariff renewable energy payments program paying up to **CDN 44.3 cents per kWh** for large ground arrays such as the Sarnia plant.[6] This makes Ontario's one of the top feed in tariff programs in the world.