

Appendix H – Public Scoping Comments

Hello Lauren. Please send me any available information, including the application from Turning Point Solar concerning the solar photovoltaic generating facility (see below). Please keep me on the mailing list for the environmental analysis from the scoping announcements and summaries through to the FONSI. Please include a paper copy of the Alternatives Evaluation and Site Selection Study. Please send material to:

Professor Paul Friesema
Environmental Policy and Culture Program
227 Scott Hall, Northwestern University
601 University Place
Evanston, IL 60208-1006

Thank you! Paul

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Comment Form

Turning Point Solar Generating Project Environmental Assessment

Your comments are important to us. Your input helps us to identify issues for evaluation in the Environmental Assessment and for planning the proposed Turning Point Solar Generating Project. Please complete this comment form today or mail to RUS by **Monday, August 15, 2011**.

Please submit comments or questions to: Ms. Lauren McGee, Environmental Scientist, USDA, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Stop 1571, Room 2244-S Washington, DC 20250-1571; Phone: (202) 720-1482; Fax: (202) 690-0649; or E-mail: lauren.mcgee@wdc.usda.gov.

Additional project information can be obtained from: Ms. Apolka Toth, Director, Turning Point Solar LLC; Phone: (650) 243-3422 or E-mail: apolka.toth@agileenergy.com

Please provide your comments below:

The Turning Point Solar project represents a great opportunity for SE Ohio. The land was previously strip mined, and the impacts to the surroundings will be minimal. I encourage a quick approval of the necessary environmental reviews.

Contact information. If you would like to receive future project-related announcements, fill in the box on the reverse side of this form.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Mailing address: _____

City, State, Zipcode: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Thank you for your interest and participation!

McGee, Lauren - Washington, DC

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 03, 2011 1:55 PM
To: McGee, Lauren - Washington, DC; [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: PUBLIC comment ON FEDERAL REGISTER

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

AN EA IS NOT SUFFICIENT. AN EIS IS REUIRED. ALSO I SEE NO BROAD OUTREACH AS REQUIRED BY NEPA. HAVING A MEETING IN THE LOCAL SITE IS NOT BROAD OUTREACH. I DISAPPROVE OF THIS PLAN. SOLAR PANELS SHOUDL FIRST BE PUT ON ROOFS, ETC. NOT ON OPEN FARM LAND. OR ON NATIONALLY SAVED LAND. THIS IS NATIONAL LAND. JEAN PUBLIC ADDRESS IF REQUIRED

Date: Mon, 27 Jun 2011 06:06:27 -0700
From: [REDACTED]
Subject: comment
To: [REDACTED]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Turning Point Solar LLC; Notice of Intent To Hold a Public Scoping Meeting and Prepare an Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment and Hold a Public Scoping Meeting.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) intends to hold a public scoping meeting and prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) to meet its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), and RUS's Environmental and Policies and Procedures (7 CFR part 1794) in connection with potential impacts related to a proposal by Turning Point Solar LLC. The proposal consists of constructing a 49.9 megawatt (MW) ground-mounted solar

photovoltaic generating facility in Noble County, Ohio. Turning Point Solar LLC is requesting that RUS provide a loan or loan guarantee for the proposal.

DATES: RUS will conduct a public scoping meeting in an open-house format on Thursday, July 14, 2011, from 5 to 9 p.m. at: Caldwell Elementary School, 44350 Fairground Road, Caldwell, Ohio 43724. Representatives from RUS and Turning Point Solar LLC will be available at the meeting to discuss the environmental review process, the proposal, and the scope of environmental issues currently under consideration. Written comments regarding the proposal may be submitted at the public scoping meeting or by August 15, 2011, to the RUS address provided in this Notice.

ADDRESSES: To send comments or for further information, please contact Ms. Lauren McGee, Environmental Scientist, USDA Rural Utilities Service, Engineering and Environmental Staff, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 1571, Room 2244-S, Washington, DC 20250-1571, telephone: (202) 720-1482, fax: (202) 690-0649, or e-mail: <mailto:lauren.mcgee@wdc.usda.gov>.

An Alternatives Evaluation and Site Selection Study, which discusses the purpose and need for the proposal and the alternatives considered in the proposal's development, is available for public review at the RUS address provided in this Notice, at the following RUS Web site: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWP-ea.htm>, and at the following repository: Caldwell Public Library, 517 Spruce Street, Caldwell, OH 43724-0230; telephone: (740) 732-4506 for operating hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Turning Point Solar LLC proposes to construct a 49.9 MW solar generating facility in Brookfield Township, Noble County, Ohio. The proposal involves the installation of high-efficiency monocrystalline photovoltaic panels mounted on fixed solar racking equipment and the construction of access roads, a powerhouse, transmission improvements, and other supporting facilities. The applicant's proposed site for the proposal is located eight miles northwest of Caldwell, Ohio, on approximately 771 acres of reclaimed strip-mined land owned by Columbus Southern Power Company and Ohio Power Company, collectively American Electric Power Ohio ('`AEP Ohio``'). The land was mined by the Central Ohio Coal Company between 1969 and 1991, after which time it was reclaimed. The proposed generating facility would interconnect to AEP Ohio's South Cumberland 69kV substation, subject to completion of the PJM Generation Interconnection application process.

Among the alternatives that RUS will address in the EA is the No Action alternative, under which the proposal would not be undertaken. In the EA, the effects of the proposal will be compared to the existing conditions in the proposal area. Public health and safety, environmental impacts, and engineering aspects of the proposal will be considered in the EA.

RUS is the lead federal agency, as defined at 40 CFR 1501.5, for preparation of the EA. With this Notice, federally recognized Native American Tribes and federal agencies with jurisdiction or special expertise are invited to be cooperating agencies. Such tribes or agencies may make a request to RUS to be a cooperating agency by contacting the RUS contact provided in this Notice. Designated cooperating agencies have certain responsibilities to support the NEPA process, as specified at 40 CFR 1501.6(b).

As part of its broad environmental review process, RUS must take into account the effect of the proposal on historic properties in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106) and its implementing regulation, ``Protection of Historic Properties`` (36 CFR part 800). Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3), RUS is

using its procedures for public involvement under NEPA to meet its responsibilities to solicit and consider the views of the public during Section 106 review. Accordingly, comments submitted in response to scoping will inform RUS decision-making in its Section 106 review process. Any party wishing to participate more directly with RUS as a ``consulting party'' in Section 106 review may submit a written request to the RUS contact provided in this Notice.

RUS will use input provided by government agencies, private organizations, and the public in the preparation of the EA. The EA will be available for review and comment for 30 days. If RUS finds, based on the EA, that the proposal will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, RUS will prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Notification of the EA and FONSI will be published in the Federal Register and in newspapers with circulation in the proposal's area. If substantive comments are received on the EA, RUS may provide an additional period (15 days) for public review following the publication of its FONSI. When appropriate to carry out the purposes of NEPA, RUS may impose, on a case-by-case basis, additional requirements associated with the preparation of an EA. If at any point in the preparation of an EA, RUS determines that the proposal will have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement will be required.

Any final action by RUS related to the proposal will be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with all relevant executive orders and federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations in addition to the completion of the environmental review requirements as prescribed in RUS's Environmental Policies and Procedures, 7 CFR part 1794, as amended.

Dated: June 20, 2011.

Richard Fristik,
Acting Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff, USDA, Rural
Utilities Service.

[FR Doc. 2011-15957 Filed 6-24-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE P

McGee, Lauren - Washington, DC

From: McGee, Lauren - Washington, DC
Sent: Wednesday, July 06, 2011 4:48 PM
To: 'usacitizen1 usacitizen1'
Subject: RE: PUBLIC comment ON FEDERAL REGISTER

To JEAN PUBLIC:

For this comment to appear in the official record, I will need an official first and last name in addition to a city and state of residence. Otherwise, the comment will appear as an anonymous comment.

In regards to the issues raised in your the email:

Please provide your basis for why an EIS should be prepared for the proposed project. RUS is currently going through scoping, and to date, has not received information that would necessitate the preparation of an EIS.

RUS' public notification and meeting requirements are prescribed in its NEPA implementing regulations (7 CFR Part 1794). The level of public outreach currently underway is commensurate with the requirements of these regulations.

Your comment indicating disapproval of the proposed project is noted. The preferred location for siting the project is not open farm land – but instead is reclaimed mine-strip lands (or a brownfield site) with limited future use.

If you have any additional questions or would like additional information about the proposed project, feel free to call or send me an email.

Regards –

Lauren McGee | Environmental Scientist
Rural Development | Rural Utilities Service (RUS)
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Mail Stop 1571 | Rm 2244-S
1400 Independence Ave, SW | Washington, DC 20250
Phone: 202-720-1482 | Fax: 202-690-0649
Email: <mailto:lauren.mcgee@wdc.usda.gov>
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWP-environmental.htm>

"Committed to the future of rural communities."

"Estamos dedicados al futuro de las comunidades rurales."

From: usacitizen1 usacitizen1 (<mailto:usacitizen1@live.com>)
Sent: Sunday, July 03, 2011 1:55 PM
To: McGee, Lauren - Washington, DC; speakerboehner@mail.house.gov; comments@whitehouse.gov
st.nancy@mail.house.gov
Cc: info@taxpayer.net; media@caqow.org
Subject: PUBLIC comment ON FEDERAL REGISTER

AN EA IS NOT SUFFICIENT. AN EIS IS REUIRED. ALSO I SEE NO BROAD OUTREACH AS REQUIRED BY NEPA. HAVING A MEETING IN THE LOCAL SITE IS NOT BROAD OUTREACH.

I DISAPPROVE OF THIS PLAN. SOLAR PANELS SHOUDL FIRST BE PUT ON ROOFS, ETC. NOT ON OPEN FARM LAND. OR

McGee, Lauren - Washington, DC

From: usacitizen1 usacitizen1 [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 07, 2011 5:50 PM
To: McGee, Lauren - Washington, DC
Subject: RE: PUBLIC comment ON FEDERAL REGISTER

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

[REDACTED] jean public - a city is never required in any other federal register notice - please check that. you are wrong. and a citizen may refuse to give it. my state is nj.

nepa requires an eis for this. an ea is cheap, sloppy and you ae trying to get by with putting one over on the public with an ea.

the outreach required by nepa is BROAD OUTREACH. YOU IN FACT BLACKLIST ANIMAL PROTECTION GROUPS. YOU SIT ON YOUR DUFFS AND NEVER MAKE ANY OUTREACH AT ALL TO THE MAJOR NUMBERS OF PEOPLE WHO WANT TO PROTECT ANIMALS AND EARTH. YOU IN FACT WANT TO TURN THEM AWAY.

HOW DID THE LAND GET TO BE BROWNFIELDS THAT ARE POLLUTED IN THE FIRST PLACE. THE GOVT LET IT HAPPEN. I FIND THAT APPALLING.
JEAN PUBLIC THIS IS PART OF MY COMMENTS

From: Lauren.McGee@wdc.usda.gov
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: PUBLIC comment ON FEDERAL REGISTER
Date: Wed, 6 Jul 2011 20:48:24 +0000

To JEAN PUBLIC:

For this comment to appear in the official record, I will need an official first and last name in addition to a city and state of residence. Otherwise, the comment will appear as an anonymous comment.

In regards to the issues raised in your the email:

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If you have any additional questions or would like additional information about the proposed project, feel free to call or send me an email.

Regards –

Lauren McGee | Environmental Scientist
Rural Development | Rural Utilities Service (RUS)

McGee, Lauren - Washington, DC

From: McGee, Lauren - Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, July 11, 2011 8:38 AM
To: 'usacitizen1 usacitizen1'
Subject: RE: PUBLIC comment ON FEDERAL REGISTER

Thank you, Jean Public, for your additional comments. They will be added to the administrative record for the proposed project. Please note that if a citizen refuses to provide a city of residence, RUS will note the comment(s) as originating from an anonymous commentor. RUS does not intend to reveal the city of residence or email address of commentors in publicly released documents. RUS requests this information so that it may maintain a more robust administrative record. Again, if you have any questions about RUS' NEPA process, the agency's NEPA implementing regulations, which have been approved by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), are 7 CFR 1794.

Regards –

Lauren.

Lauren McGee | Environmental Scientist
Rural Development | Rural Utilities Service (RUS)
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Mail Stop 1571 | Rm 2244-S
1400 Independence Ave, SW | Washington, DC 20250
Phone: 202-720-1482 | Fax: 202-690-0649
Email: <mailto:lauren.mcgee@wdc.usda.gov>
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From: usacitizen1 usacitizen1 [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 07, 2011 5:50 PM
To: McGee, Lauren - Washington, DC
Subject: RE: PUBLIC comment ON FEDERAL REGISTER

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JEAN PUBLIC THIS IS PART OF MY COMMENTS

From: Lauren.McGee@wdc.usda.gov
To: [REDACTED]