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Subject: Ridgecrest: SA/DEIS - Solar Millennium

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Ridgecrest: SA/DEIS - Solar Millennium Proposal:

May 21, 2010

California Energy Commission
Attention: Eric K. Solorio, Project Manager
1516 Ninth Street, MS-15
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Dear Mr. Solorio

Thankyou once again for allowing the general public, and others the opportunity to share concerns and comments in regards to Solar Millennium's (RSPP) proposal, and The SA/DEIS.

After attending the April and May public workshops, gaining more information first hand, as well as researching further, and (trying to) look over the SA/DEIS, my concerns have increased to a greater-than-significant level !

The more that comes to light about SM's (most-current) plans, and methods of operation, (along with their proposed plans to try to mitigate the already long list of important, and sensitive immitigable issues),...the more alarmingly-obvious it becomes...that Solar Millennium's Project...needs to go elsewhere.

SM's (latest) plans call for: on-site Fuel Depots: for the"Temporary"
28-month Construction Phase, and the Power Plant's Continuous-[30-year]-Operational Phase calls for: use of, and on-site storage of: Hazardous Materials: including Therminol VP-1, Liquid Propane Gas, Chemicals: (Individual, and Suites of Chemicals: such as the "Soil-Binding-Stabalizing-Agents"-used in part, with gallons upon gallons of water: for ongoing Dust Control mitigation measures), and one of the late-made changes to SM's Plans, now includes the addition of: 2 (contaminated) Evaporation Ponds: which would cover an area of 4-acres each, and would be further-chemically-treated: RE: Mosquitos.

I strongly support, and agree with CEC Staff in regards to the Biological findings, and I agree with the Visual Resource findings: ...that the proposed project would result in a substantial adverse impact to...Daytime: Scenic Views, and Nighttime: Dark Skies, along with the Glint and Glare factor...all are immitigable.

There are a few other areas in the SA/DEIS...that are of concern, and I hope that the Staff will take another look, and perhaps will reconsider, and rethink their assessments, and findings.

I realize that the CEC Staff have certain guidelines that they must follow, including Local: Kern County, State, and Federal...Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, and Standards...that do not always relate, nor can they accurately be applied to certain, one of a kind, individual situations, such as what we have here.

This is a very unique situation !

IMPORTANT COMMENTS:

As Residents that live out in the desert, and reside in the surrounding area/near/in

close-proximity to The Applicant: Solar Millennium's proposed Utility-scale Power Plant Site and Right-of-Way, ...WE HAVE MANY SERIOUS CONCERNS !!!

Our residences are situated on the Eastern, and Western frontlines of the proposed project.

The prevailing winds would place us residents (on the Eastern frontline) directly downwind from SM's facility, which would make us the first recipients to receive any and all, fugitive dust, air-borne pollutants (visible or not), smoke and toxic vapors from Plant-related fires and explosions: due to Hazardous Materials, and Chemicals)...for example.

From where we live, it is only a short distance to Ridgecrest, and the majority of the population.

We residents on the Eastern frontline, along with our pets, and the desert wildlife of this area, would also be the first recipients to receive any SM-related "fugitive" Coccidiomycosis [Vally Fever] Spores. The residents on the Western front would be very vulnerable to exposure as well. Next inline, (to the north)...would be the employees that work at the Municipal Dump.

The potential threat of FIRE is another very real, and genuine concern for residents out here, not only for reasons of HEALTH-and-AIR QUALITY, but for reasons such as PERSONAL and PUBLIC SAFETY, and PROTECTION of our Homes, and Properties.

Our well-being and quality of life would become threatened !

Solar Millennium's Safety and Fire Protection measures are weak, (and their plans do not call for the use of [individual], automatic shut-off valves for the HTF: Therminol VP-1), and even if SM had an on-site Fire station and Pumper trucks, (or called Kern County for assistance)...it is highly likely that they would not manage to reach containment of any fires (of significant size)...because of the enormity, and complexity, and accessibility to all far-reaching areas of their Plant and Solar Fields.

Fire containment would probably be difficult to achieve...due to the fact that there would be such large amounts of volatile, ignitable, and flammable chemicals, and gases present on-site.

The Harper Lake Incident could easily be repeated here, but with far greater consequences. The Solar Power Plant:(operated by Luz International Ltd.) at Harper Lake... was a much smaller facility...that produced 80 megawatts, rather than Solar Millennium's proposed 250 megawatts.

If any, (SM) on-site fire was wind-driven,...which it very well could be in this area, we residents on the East, and West frontlines would be extremely concerned, and so would the rest of the Ridgecrest residents.

NOISE and VIBRATION:

For those of us residents (on the Eastern frontline), that live out in this rich and thriving desert, we are keenly aware of just how quiet, and silent this desert area is. We seldom ever hear Highway Traffic. It happens so infrequently that we consider it, a significant rarity when it does actually occur.

It is obvious why this particular section of desert land is so abundant with sound-sensitive wildlife. We, (human) residents that live out here...are also sound-sensitive receptors.

VISUAL : DAYTIME: (SCENIC VIEWS) and NIGHTTIME: (DARK SKIES):

Of course it is a given, that for those of us residents that would be living on the Eastern, and Western frontlines of SM's Project...we would feel the extreme adverse impacts of what we would lose: Scenic

Views, Dark Skies, and what we would gain: an Industrialized, utility-scale facility, which we would see during the daytime, along with the inmitigable "Glint and Glare" from the Parabolic Mirrors, and regardless of SM's proposal of using hooded light fixtures - to minimize nighttime glare...there will still be a more than significant loss to our dark skies.

(POTABLE) WATER: Part 1:

Since we (residents) on the Eastern Front obtain our Domestic Water from the (Potable) Water Pumping Station/Storage Tank where Solar Millennium plans to source Water ...for their "Temporary" 28-month Construction Phase, we have concerns:

How much Water would SM be using out of the Storage Tank per day ?

How long would it take the Water Storage Tank to recharge ?

Would SM's daily take, and over-all, (28-month) total take...lessen the quality of the water that we residents depend on to sustain our families, ourselves, our homes, and our properties ?

We already receive, (and have for quite some time now), water quality notices, sent out by the local IWVWD company...informing us about Arsenic being present in our water supply.

TRAFFIC:

We residents (from the Eastern front) have Traffic concerns in regards to Solar Millennium accessing water from the above-mentioned Water Tank. The commercial water-hauling trucks would be making numerous trips to and from this Pumping Station. They would heavily-impact those residents, that use the Water Tank road as an access route to and from...their homes. This heavy, commercial truck traffic would more than significantly increase the risk of accidents...on South China Lake Boulevard, and on Hwy. 395 where they would be making frequent crossings.

(POTABLE) WATER: Part 2:

Solar Millennium's proposal for Water mitigation, which is mostly based on their limited: Off-Set Program: "Cash-for-Grass" (which SM is proposing to pay for),...and would have the local, privately-owned-and-operated Water Company: (IWVWD)... become the overseers, and the enforcers of this program. The local (IWVWD) Water Company is planning on (very soon)... raising our water rates by a considerable amount, ...maybe they think this will encourage residents to cooperate, and comply with SM's "Cash for Grass" Off-Set Program...which would only partially help to enable them to mitigate some of the water issues. This above-mentioned water mitigation plan will not sit well with residents of Ridgecrest !

The future of this special desert land, its wildlife, and the sacred, and historical values it contains, along with its scenic views, and dark skies...and quiet silence, (each aspect, irreplaceable)...is now threatened, and presently...lies in the path of Jeopardy.

Thanks again Mr. Solorio...for allowing me to comment.
It is greatly appreciated !

Signed, Maggie Gire

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