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I can think of much better ways to do this...

Brightsource Energy is acting like a man whose only tool is a hammer. And to whom every problem looks like a nail. But in this day and age we have the Torx driven self tapping wood screw. Which can be installed and removed twenty times in a minute. Even if that minute is 50 years after it was first installed. The hammer ...is obsolete. So is Solar Thermoelectric.

Solar thermoelectric is not a moneymaker. Current photovoltaics are a better business decision. Even if sited in the same place. But that should not happen, either. Photovoltaics work 6% better when sited near the point of power delivery. 6% is your typical powerline loss in the U.S. In this case, we are talking about 30,000,000 Watts. Or 300,000 panels. At \$70 each. When Photovoltaics are site on the building using the poser a further advantage is had. The panels shade a portion of the building from the sun. This reduces direct solar input to that building by about 1000 Watts for each square meter of panel atop the building. That reduces the need to cool the building. This saves power. That means (pardon use of caps) A SOLAR PANEL ON A BUILDING WORKS TWICE !!!!

Moving to the next point, there is environmental impact. Solar power is suppose to easy on the environment. And it can be, if it is done right. But Brightsource has done it wrong at Ivanpah and proposes to repeat the same mistakes at Palen. To begin with, the Desert Tortoise was removed from Ivanpah. This resulted in many and perhaps most them dying. Or being euthanized. Brightsource proposes to doe the same at Palen. I reference government information at the following website.

http://www.lcrmscp.gov/species/desert_tortoise.html#

This is a map from that site of the government recognized geographic range of the Desert Tortoise.

http://www.lcrmscp.gov/images/species/reptiles/des_tort_map.JPG

This shows very clearly the Palen site is occupied by the Desert Tortoise. It is also true the site is 'undisturbed land'. Valuable because it is undisturbed. It is also true the project can easily be located where the Tortoises are not and where the buildings already are. And there are other forms of life to think about.

The mirrors Brighsource proposes will reflect light. Insects use light to navigate. They keep the light in one receptor of their compound eye and if the light is the Moon or Sun, they fly, or walk, in a straight line. If the light is not from the moon or sun, they will fly in a curve based on that light. This will draw insects to Palen, just as it draws them to Ivanpah. Once there, they will encounter the 900 degree solar flux. And die. And it's worse. Small birds eat flying insects. And will follow then to the power plant. And encounter the same 900 light. And die. And it's worse that that. Larger animals eat smaller animals. Particularly when they are dead. Buzzards. Vultures. Hawks. Eagles. Condors. All will be attracted by a free meal. All will encounter 900 degree light. And die. And it's even worse than that. migrating fowl need water. Mirros look like water from far off. This will draw migrating birds as they pass. If they do not collide with the mirrors while trying to land on what they think is water, they will very possibly encounter 900 degree light. And die.

The Palen project is a deathtrap. Just as Ivanpah is. If you think I am exaggerating, I present an example you cannot pooh-pooh.. The Walkie-Talkie Building at 20 Fenchurch Street, in London. London is not the California desert. The Walkie-Talkie Building is NOT a power plant. And it melts cars.

http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/multimedia/archive/00447/WalkieTalkie_447830a.jpg

Let us take this moment to consider who is going to be paying for this project. At Ivanpah, the federal government put up 73% of the money. I imagine the same is supposed to happen at Palen. And at both sites the government is donating the land. Public, wild, land. This is a simple transfer of public resources into private hands. And the destruction of them. A total loss for the taxpayer as well as for the environment.

To sum up. I think solar power is a wonderful thing. But, just like everything else, there is a right way to use it. And there is a wrong way. Please do not build any more power plants in the desert. Build them in the city, on buildings, where they belong.

Thank you.
Kurtis Engle