

DOCKET**09-AFC-8**DATE DEC 08 2009RECD. DEC 08 2009

From: Mike Monasmith
To: Docket Optical System
CC: Maria Santourdjian
Date: 12/8/2009 1:29 PM
Subject: Fwd: NextEra Ford Dry Lake Solar Power Plant-Scoping Comments

Hi,

Please docket this public comment for Genesis Solar Energy Project (09-AFC-8).

Thanks,
mike

J. Mike Monasmith
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>>> Brendan Hughes <jesusthedude@hotmail.com> 12/6/2009 3:16 PM >>>

To whom it may concern:

My name is Brendan Hughes and I would like to provide scoping comments on the proposed NextEra Ford Dry Lake Solar power project in eastern Riverside County. I have several concerns about this proposed facility that I would like you to address in the Draft EIS.

First, I am concerned about the cumulative impacts of all of the proposed solar and wind facilities on the desert. The EIS should consider the possibility that many of these projects will be built, and what effect this will have on the integrity of the ecology of the desert, as well as impacts to visual resources and water use. Is the loss of tens of thousands of acres of public land in the public interest?

Second, this project could have negative effects on endangered and sensitive species, such as the desert tortoise. Not only will this project adversely affect wildlife, but also it could hinder the future recovery of the desert tortoise by destroying currently intact habitat.

In addition, this project will impact the outstanding visual resources of Riverside County. One of the California Desert's major assets is its stunning open spaces, which bring tourism and revenue to local communities. The NextEra proposal will severely harm this treasured landscape.

Moreover, water use should be addressed in the Draft EIS. The desert's scarce water resources should be managed wisely. The effects of groundwater pumping on local water sources, such as springs and residential wells, should be assessed in the Draft EIS.

Finally, this project will require the destruction of thousands of acres of intact public lands, which are owned by the American people. Nothing will survive on the footprint of this power plant, as is the case with the graded, naked, dead landscape underneath the solar collectors at Kramer Junction. I believe that it is unacceptable to sacrifice ecologically intact public lands while there are tens of thousands of

acres of disturbed, private lands, such as former agricultural lands, in the desert. The Draft EIS should seriously consider a private land alternative like the current Beacon Solar Energy project, as well as a large-scale rooftop photovoltaic project, such as Southern California Edison's projects in the Inland Empire. This type of project could be repeated many times over in the desert, with minimal impacts to wild lands and wildlife. And the Beacon Solar Energy and SCE projects prove that this type of project is viable. Additionally, the cost of lawsuits that NextEra may have to defend against should be considered in the overall project costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project.

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Chat with Messenger straight from your Hotmail inbox.

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