

Docket Optical System - 09AFC09

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DOCKET	
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Hello:

It has been brought to my attention that the Ridgecrest Solar Project is going from strictly a solar thermal to a hybrid solar thermal/solar pv installation. I have no problem with this but I do have a problem with the type of technology that has been picked for the solar PV generating aspect for this installation. The panels that have been picked are thin film with cadmium telluride (CdTe) as the semiconductor material. I feel it is very reckless to use this material as cadmium should be treated as a hazardous material. Nickle Cadmium batteries should be referenced as they were also made out of cadmium. The problem that the batteries had for recycling and for being of hazardous material is well known and should be considered.

Silicon has gotten to be very inexpensive and is the biggest problem for thin film technologies. Silicon's tract record goes back to over 70 years and the power warranty for silicon solar panels is 25 years. Silicon is a tried and proven technology and it is the type of panel that should be used for these large desert solar projects. Most solar manufacturers make panels made out of silicon so there is no problem finding suppliers. As a matter of fact there would be way more competition with silicon and this would be the way to get the project down at the lowest cost.

I feel that the California Energy Commission has not looked viably into "Cadmium" as it seems to be on track for installation in our California deserts. This is very worrying to me.

Sunny Regards,

Daniel
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