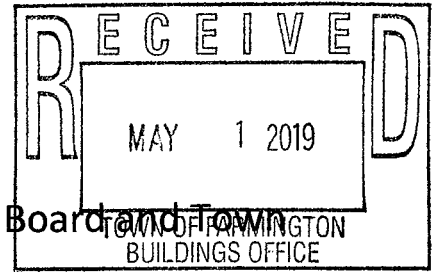


4-30-19



To: The Town of Farmington Planning Board, Zoning Board and Town Board Officials:
From: Concerned Citizens opposing the Large Scale Commercial Solar Power Plant on Fox and Yellow Mills Rd.

Please consider the following two articles in your decision-making process re: Large-Scale Industrial/Commercial Solar Power Plant application on Yellow Mills and Fox Road

1. Slow going on Farmington solar project by Josh Williams
Messenger post media April 17, 2019
2. FORBES : Unreliable Nature of Solar And Wind Makes Electricity Much More Expensive , Major New Study Finds By Michael Shellenberger April 22, 2019

We join the growing local and national widespread objection to Large Scale Commercial/Industrial Solar Power Plants located in Non-Industrial/Non-Commercial areas

Thank You

Your Neighbors;

Jim Foley, Ann Foley, Jim Falanga, Nancy Falanga, Al Baxter, Jennifer Baxter, Jim Redmond, Lisa Reed, Chad Redmond, Caroline Heberle, Linda Heberle, Edith Chapman, Eric Chapman, Gordon Wilson, Stacy Vandenburg, Arnold Vandenburg, Jim Dennie, Dan Geer, Matt Barnes, Terry Biek, Marilyn Fair, Tammy Johnson, Ed Johnson, Linda Zurich, Jim Zurich, Petrina Case, Paul Case

DAILY MESSENGER

Slow going on Farmington solar project

By Josh Williams jwilliams@messengerpostmedia.com

Posted Apr 17, 2019 at 11:07 PM

Updated Apr 17, 2019 at 11:07 PM

Farmington Planning Board tables a decision on variances for the Smith Farm project, looking to digest a state report that just came in

FARMINGTON — Having received a report from the New York State Agriculture and Markets last week, the Farmington Planning Board has once again tabled any decision regarding the requested variances by Delaware River Solar regarding the 7.3-megawatt Smith Farm solar project.

The three variances before the Planning Board requested by Delaware River Solar are: a special use permit allowing a 7.3 megawatt solar PV system on approximately 35 acres

of land; preliminary site plan approval utilizing 21,000 solar panels; and approval of a four-lot subdivision on the farm, which contains approximately 136 acres of land.

“We feel the notice of intent was very favorable for the project,” said Dan Compitello, project manager for Delaware River Solar. “... The mitigations noted in the project are actually noted in our site plan.”

The beef-cattle farm is located on Yellow Mills and Fox roads in Farmington. If the project were to go into effect, the landowners would receive approximately \$1,000 per acre annually.

“We did get the report back from Ag and Markets electronically, we are going to distribute this report to the board members and post to the website,” Planning Board Chairman Ed Hemminger said at Wednesday’s meeting. “I know it’s a little frustrating, but we believe this needs to be done correctly and we’ll do it correctly. That’s just the way we work.”

The only action taken by the Planning Board regarding the Smith Farm solar project was continuing the public hearing though the May 15 meeting.

The theme of the night was environment, as community members spoke of the concern regarding potential water contamination and wildlife protection.

The opponents of the project hired an attorney, who addressed the Planning Board.

“The potentially significant adverse environmental impact include the loss of approximately 30 acres of prime agricultural farmland, changes to subsurface agricultural drainage adversely affecting biology of onsite farmland and farmland of neighboring properties, impact of community character and property values, driver and pedestrian safety as the project is located near a well traversed intersection, impacts to state and federal wetlands, and the impacts of an aquifer located below the project site,” said Frances Kabat, an attorney representing the opponents of the project, from Zophlin Group.

It's not just Farmington finding itself in the solar glare. Western New York is becoming a hotbed of solar projects with some massive scale proposals in the works.

There is strong concern over placing solar arrays on top of farmland, in both Ontario County and other locations across Western New York.

In neighboring Livingston County there is a proposed 1,300-acre site being proposed by Invenergy. In contrast to the Smith site, that site is not owned locally, but by an Indiana-based investment group.

“We’re surprised at the pushback we have received,” said Brandon Zick of Ceres Investments. “It’s going to generate more revenue and keep it ag — I don’t see a problem with it at all.”

Ceres Investments takes investor money and buys land, which is more stable than the stock market.

According to Zick, all of their investors are U.S.-based. The company started out as friends and family investment funds of the co-founder. Now it uses public pension funds and municipal funds and has over \$800 million in investor capital involving 120,000 acres across 10 states.

The proposed project in Farmington has been a roller coaster from the start when members of the community caught wind of the green energy project.

Back in April 2018, NY Green Bank, a division of New York State Energy and Research Development Authority, entered into an agreement with Delaware River Solar, LLC (“DRS”) to provide a \$7 million bridge loan to finance the interconnection expenses of its community distributed

generation (“Community DG”) projects in New York. In total, NY Green Bank has loaned Delaware River Solar \$87 million.

NY Green Bank has made approximately \$637.6 million in overall investments in clean energy projects across the state. The organization continues to further mobilize clean energy activity, ultimately reducing the need for further ratepayer funding, while creating new asset classes and increasing liquidity in its market segment.

According to the NYSERDA website there are currently 98 solar projects in the works, 36 of them being proposed by Delaware River Solar. Delaware River Solar has completed and received payments from NYSERDA on three projects, and 36 projects were scrapped with no funding paid by NYSERDA.

56,529 views | Apr 22, 2019, 11:11am

Unreliable Nature Of Solar And Wind Makes Electricity More Expensive, New Study Finds



Michael Shellenberger Contributor

Energy

I write about energy and the environment



Wind turbines in Penonome, Panama. (Credit: Associated Press)

Solar panels and wind turbines are making electricity significantly more expensive, a major new study by a team of economists from the University of Chicago finds.

Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) "significantly increase average retail electricity prices, with prices increasing by 11% (1.3 cents per kWh) seven years

after the policy's passage into law and 17% (2 cents per kWh) twelve years afterward," the economists write.

The study, which has yet to go through peer-review, was done by Michael Greenstone, Richard McDowell, and Ishan Nath. It compared states with and without an RPS. It did so using what the economists say is "the most comprehensive state-level dataset ever compiled" which covered 1990 to 2015.

The cost to consumers has been staggeringly high: "All in all, seven years after passage, consumers in the 29 states had paid \$125.2 billion more for electricity than they would have in the absence of the policy," they write.

Last year, I was the first journalist to report that solar and wind are making electricity more expensive in the United States — and for inherently physical reasons.

Solar and wind require that natural gas plants, hydro-electric dams, batteries or some other form of reliable power be ready at a moment's notice to start churning out electricity when the wind stops blowing and the sun stops shining, I noted.

And unreliability requires solar- and/or wind-heavy places like Germany, California, and Denmark to *pay* neighboring nations or states to take their solar and wind energy when they are producing too much of it.

My reporting was criticized — sort of — by those who claimed I hadn't separated correlation from causation, but the new study by a top-notch team of economists, including an advisor to Barack Obama, proves I was right.

Previous studies were misleading, the economists note, because they didn't "incorporate three key costs," which are the unreliability of renewables, the large amounts of land they require, and the displacement of cheaper "baseload" energy sources like nuclear plants.

The higher cost of electricity reflects "the costs that renewables impose on the generation system," the economists note, "including those associated with their

intermittency, higher transmission costs, and any stranded asset costs assigned to ratepayers."

But are renewables cost-effective climate policy? They are not. The economists write that "the cost per metric ton of CO2 abated exceeds \$130 in all specifications and ranges up to \$460, making it at least several times larger than conventional estimates of the social cost of carbon."

The economists note that the Obama Administration's core estimate of the social cost of carbon was \$50 per ton in 2019 dollars, while the price of carbon is just \$5 in the US northeast's Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), and \$15 in California's cap-and-trade system.

Michael Shellenberger, President, Environmental Progress. Time Magazine "Hero of the Environment."



Michael Shellenberger Contributor

I am a Time Magazine "Hero of the Environment," Green Book Award Winner, and President of Environmental Progress, a research and policy organization. My writings have ap... **Read More**
