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RVI 12/3/18 1350 hrs.

11/29/18

Dear Mr. Ingalsbe and the Town Board,

I have attended the town meetings in regards to the proposed Solar Project in Farmington and I feel this project is in to opening Pandora's Box.... one massive Solar "Farm" will lead to another and another...

Large Scale Solar "Farms" are in their infancy and not much research has been done to address the long term consequences and impact of these operations. Best enough has been done to raise red flags for both nature and communities in which they are placed.

Farmington needs to protect our people, our land, and resources for both now and for the future.

I said Monday night at the meeting, we are in a migratory bird area including large flocks of Canadian geese and other water fowl. Conservation Groups have named these massive solar operations as "mega traps". The birds attempt to land on what they think is water due the reflective property of the panels. Not only does the bird die, but the damage to the panel upon impact allows rain water to enter and leach hazardous chemicals into the ground ... and eventually wells. This wouldn't happen

I do not believe this project will leave us unscathed. e the residents expect you and others on the board be our voice. At the meeting the subject was brought o about not using viable farm land - alternative cations must be found. I'm not against solar - just e massive projects with such a tremendous impact. search suggests these "farms" alter temperature, and n off, and compaction of soil. Chemicals used in clearing eels can also be dangerous.

Once Farmington opens the door it only leaves us nerable to a rush of such operations or worse yet to ncentrated Solar Power Systems (CSP) which is another ightmare that could be waiting down the road.

And in the end - who benefits?... not the people or e land or the wildlife... only those looking to ake a buck... a big buck.

Again, as I said at the meeting No one truly wns the land. We are stewards of it and en- rusted with its care for only as long as we live. hat will we pass on to those who follow us. Do you ..... who succeed us want to look back over

so sorry.... all the sorrys in the world can't
do the nightmare that lay ahead for this agricultural
district and its people.

I'm enclosing sources on where to look for the
formation I discussed in this letter. Has the DEC
d Conservation groups been involved in any of this?
not they should be. There's a reason other areas have
ined these projects down. Please do the research and
lay this project until the facts, all the facts are in.
opefully we can stop this dangerous venture.

N.CARDI.CORNELL.EDU - LARGE SCALE SOLAR INFO

ACK & VEATCH - IMPACT OF SOLAR ENERGY IS AN
EMERGING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE

IMATE CENTRAL - SUSTAINABILITY, SOLAR FARMS
THREATEN BIRDS by JOHN UPTON

TPS//WWW.BIRDLIFE.ORG - BIRD LIFE MIGRATORY
SOARING BIRDS

TP//IOP SCIENCE.IOP.ORG/10.1088/1748-9326/11/3/074014

SOLAR PARK MICROCLIMATE AND VEGETATION
MANAGEMENT EFFECTS ON GRASSLAND CARBON CYCLING

P://SOLARES.ANL.GOV GUIDE ENVIRONMENT
SOLAR ENERGY ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Local impact considerations:

The potential impacts listed below are not relevant to every site. These topics are sometimes raised as concerns in solar development planning documents.

During construction

- Soil erosion and compaction;
- Nuisance noise and dust;
- Tax penalties associated with loss of agricultural exemption for converted land.

During operation

- Runoff issues, including contamination by herbicides or cleaning agents used on site, soil erosion, and interruption to surrounding drainage;
- Shading of neighboring crops;
- Reduced habitat for wildlife;
- Habitat fragmentation from fencing;
- Introduction of invasive plants or pests;
- Risk of increased taxes, decreased price of electricity, or change in solar regulations during a multi-decade lease;
- Glare from panels interfering with drivers or quality of the view-shed;
- Impact on local property values;
- Aesthetic concerns, if the solar farm is located in a scenic area;
- Restrictions on landowner access to and use of the project area and surrounding land (particularly if the development took place on agricultural land);
- Reduction in land available for other uses (e.g., rental as farmland);
- Technical or economic obsolescence of equipment (e.g., in the event of a breakthrough in solar technology or a change in renewable energy policies);
- Impact of electromagnetic fields on health (there is little evidence of harm from magnetic and electrical fields associated with solar electricity infrastructure, but this subject is frequently raised by community members and groups skeptical of solar power).

NOTE: this also was brought up at the meeting

Decommissioning and long-term impacts

- Removal of solar panel foundations;
- Soil erosion and compaction during decommissioning process;
- Incomplete restoration of project area and access roads to prior use;
- Abandonment of obsolete or damaged equipment by the owner (e.g., in the event of bankruptcy).

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PM
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SUPERVISORS OFFICE

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Background Information

Below we list ideal site characteristics and local impact considerations based on several discussions with developers and key participants in solar siting over the past year. These "realities" have played an important role in shaping the research priorities discussed above.

Ideal site characteristics:

Land parcels with many or all of the characteristics below may be particularly desirable to commercial solar developers. This list does not take into account local regulations and incentives to encourage development of previously developed or less valuable land.

Amenable topography and physical characteristics:

- Flat land (can develop up to a 20% grade);
- SW orientation if sloped;
- Few or no trees (clearing trees is expensive and can provoke controversy);
- No wetlands or floodplains;
- Deep bedrock (shallow bedrock makes PV foundations more expensive and complex);
- Soil type (ideal soil is firm and compacted, but does not contain very large gravel or buried rock);
- Previously undeveloped (building a solar farm on a brownfield site typically requires a lengthier permitting process and may require the developer to remediate prior contamination or modify the site extensively before construction);

Easy grid interconnection:

- Near 3-phase transmission line (ideally less than 2000 feet) with spare capacity and appropriate voltage
- Close to electrical substation (reducing transmission losses);
- Stiff electrical system in the area of interconnection (solar farm interconnection will not cause harmful variations in voltage);

Adequate insulation:

- High total annual sunlight;
- Low seasonal variation;

Regional characteristics:

- Close to customers;
- High regional price of electricity;
- Pro-solar policies at the local and county level;
- Low local taxes;
- Low land values and lease expectations;

Parcel characteristics:

- Road access for construction and maintenance;
- No zoning restrictions, height restrictions, or other local regulations that would interfere with construction or maintenance;
- Large parcels or contiguous ownership that lower assembly and transaction costs.