From: Paulette Mann
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 10:13 AM
To: Patrick White
Subject: FW: Today's Washington Times: "Virginia residents protest proposed solar farm in Spotsylvania"

From: Kevin McCarthy [mailto:kjmmusic@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 11, 2018 5:02 PM
To: Chris Yakabouski; David Ross; Thomas G. Benton; Kevin Marshall; Paul D. Trampe; Timothy J. McLaughlin; Gregg A. Newhouse; Howard Smith; Jennifer Maddox; Paulette Mann; Michael Medina; Travis Bullock
Cc: Wanda Parrish; Paulette Mann; Dave Hammond; Sean Fogarty
Subject: Re: Today's Washington Times: "Virginia residents protest proposed solar farm in Spotsylvania"

I'd sent the prior email with the Washington Times article just a few moments before one of the more informed comments was posted, 7 minutes ago. I've pasted that comment herein.

"Regular people have figured it out."

~K

CyanBeer

I think its terrible to try and place the 5th largest solar plant in the country next to peoples homes, none of the other 10 are in residential areas, they are in the desert! They want to extend the water lines to supply this mega plant with water to the tune of over $7,000,000.00 dollars and are expecting the taxpayers of this county to pay for $4,000,000.00 of it after they are already getting huge tax breaks. Why should we have to pay for their water and tax breaks when I am getting nothing out of this deal except for 1.8 MILLION cadmium filled panels, smoke and ashes from burning 6,350 acres, muddy runoff, up to an additional 700 trucks/cars on our narrow scenic roads not to mention the deforestation of over 6,000 rolling picturesque terrain. NO THANK YOU! On top of it try and figure out who actually owns this company...so many LLC's that keep changing names, some of the officers of these companies have been known to walk away and bankruptcy follows leaving all of us who live here with a devastating destruction of this beautiful land. Microsoft and Univ of Richmond...shame on you for going in with them. VOTE NO!!!!

Kevin McCarthy
--
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703-473-3883 (c)

On Tue, Dec 11, 2018 at 4:33 PM Kevin McCarthy <kjmmusic@gmail.com> wrote:

Commissioners and Board members: Just sending today's Washington Times article, in case you did not see it.

The comments shed light on an increasingly informed citizenry. Text of article and comments are pasted below.

~K

Virginia residents protest proposed solar farm in Spotsylvania

By Laura Kelly - *The Washington Times - Monday, December 10, 2018*

A group of Northern Virginia residents is protesting the proposed construction of a large solar farm in their rural community, saying the project is more dangerous to the environment and surrounding towns than beneficial.

The project is proposed by Utah-based Sustainable Power Group, known as sPower, and would be the fifth largest solar field in the U.S. and the largest on the East Coast. It would cover more than 8 square miles and provide 500 megawatts (mw) of solar power.

Its proposed location, Spotsylvania County, is known for its agriculture and Civil War history, and is home to more than 130,000 residents.

If approved, the solar farm would be a key step in the state achieving its goal of producing 3,000 mw of solar power by 2022.

“We’re not against solar,” said Kevin McCarthy, an organizer of a grass-roots activity against the solar plant. “There’s nothing like this anywhere — near any residence anywhere in the country.”

Vast fields of solar panels increasingly are finding homes on the East Coast. While the four biggest solar fields are in California and Nevada, North Carolina is the second largest provider of solar-based electricity, with almost 4,500 mw accounting for 4.6 percent of the state’s total electric output, according to data from the Solar Energy Industries Association

In comparison, California produces almost 23,000 mw that accounts for 16.8 percent of the state’s electricity output.

“It’s one of the fastest growing energy generating resources on the entire East Coast,” said Charlie Payne, the Virginia attorney representing sPower in its push for approval from the county. “We feel very comfortable that the project will be viable and very efficient.”

sPower is proposing three solar fields in rural Virginia, the largest of which would cover 5,200 acres in Spotsylvania County on land designated for agricultural use.

The northeastern corner of the proposed area, about two miles wide, abuts the village of Fawn Lake, a waterfront retirement community and golf course resort that boasts its Arnold Palmer design.

“We live in a historic, pristine beautiful area, and the comprehensive plan of the county calls for this to remain so,” Mr. McCarthy said. “But we’re going to take 10 square miles of trees and cut ‘em all down and put up a power plant.”

The area is attractive for sPower because of the large area of undeveloped land, the extensive use of fiber-optic cable throughout the area and the ability to connect to a nearby electrical substation. The company said it already has secured deals to supply power to Microsoft, Apple and the University of Richmond.

“This type of facility has attracted the two most valuable publicly traded companies in the world to Spotsylvania County,” said Mr. Payne, the attorney for sPower. “That, in and of itself, is a great marketing tool, great marketing opportunity to economic development.”

The Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors has set a Jan. 2 deadline for a final vote on whether to allow sPower to proceed with construction.

The plans for the three sites have gone through several iterations to address concerns from the community over the eight months since the initial proposal.

Those concerns include erosion and sediment control, a fear realized in February when heavy rain caused a mudslide from a 200-acre solar farm in Essex County, Virginia — suffocating the nearby creek and wetlands in sediment and further flowing into the Rappahannock River, a protected national wildlife refuge.
“We’re putting out all the issues and identifying all these potential issues,” Mr. McCarthy said.
SPower has modified its plans in light of community concerns, most drastically to shift from tapping into groundwater to instead accessing the municipal water line and committing $3.5 million to its improvement. At completion of construction, the company said it will switch to tank water it will install on its properties.
Ahead of a community planning meeting last week, sPower sent a letter to the Board of Supervisors offering a number of changes and incentives for the community.
Mr. Payne said it could be a $25 million investment, including building a new fire station, constructing a local park and donating solar arrays and panels valued at $1 million for the town’s own energy needs, estimating cost savings of around $30 million over the life of the project
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- **PurplePopsicle**

  7h How good it is to see that people are saying no to these artificial energy boondoggles.

  Reply

  Share

  10 Likes

- **RedStrawberry**

  4hWhat is neglected in this article is that sPower is subsidized by federal and state monies (taxes) and brings no electric power to spotsylvania, no economic benefit , no permanent jobs ! SPower will make in the billion dollar range while county residents property values decrease and their taxes increase to pay The remaining 4 million for county water and decommissioning costs . Not right for Spotsylvania!

  Reply

  Share

  8 Likes

- **KIRK**

  4hand giving us a firehouse that we don't need . is just more cost to the county.. the firehouse is for the solar site.. with the solar fields and Game and Inland Fisheries land for

miles.. and not land for any new homes why do we need a fire house on land they are giving us... a joke or bribe in reality

- Will SPower pay for the fire trucks and equipment and the staff required for this new fire building, of course not we the taxpayers will. The taxpayers will pay for the upgrade to the Fawn Lake water line since SPower is only paying half of the cost. These panels do not benefit us at all only supplying to big box business not even in our County. I am totally against the sea of panels on our beautiful rural land.

  Reply

  Share

  5 Likes

- **GoldSnow**

  1h“Solar Farm” conjures up images of environmentally safe and economically viable energy production. I have learned, however, that the opposite is true as it relates to this proposed massive industrial-scale utility to be owned by a number of faceless Limited Liability Companies under sPower management. For the development to proceed, a change in zoning use from “Agricultural/Forestration” to “Industrial” must be recommended by the Spotsylvania County Planning Commission and approved by the County Board of Supervisors. From my own research and by listening to well-documented scientific, economic, and environmental studies presented via public comments to the Planning Commissioners and Board of Supervisors over the past year, there is no question in my mind that the Special Use Permits MUST BE DENIED. The business model and investor profits are solely dependent on tax incentives which are subject to elimination. Whereas sPower claims name-dropping Microsoft, Apple and others as evidence of “endorsement”, NONE of these companies are owners, operators or liable. They are taking advantage of lower utility rates which are made possible by tax subsidies under a speculative formula of power use from ALL sources through the Grid. I’m in favor of developing research on alternative sources of energy. However, not all sites are appropriate and the very real long term harmful consequences of the Spotsylvania gamble is not worth the risks.

  Reply

  Share

  4 Likes

- **DGWalkerNC**

  4h The typical arrangements reported for industrial solar sites in NC has the company leasing the land for 15 years. At the end of the lease, the panels become the property (liability) of the landowner. It is amazing that people keep falling for this. The panels will stop working around 20 years of service, and they are known to contain an assortment of

toxic materials. I guess we can expect the federal government (using our money) to come in and bail them out with EPA Superfund 2.0?

Reply

Share

4 Likes

- **GreenBus**

4hThis is a project that should definitely NOT be in an area designated for agriculture and residential living. The hazards, known and unknown, definitely outweigh any tax benefits or other “incentives” that SPower is trying to seduce the Board of Supervisors with.

Reply

Share

4 Likes

- **DaveH22551**

13mCorrection -- the decision by the Board of Supervisors is expected in March (not Jan. 2). The Planning Commission is reviewing the applications now and are expected to make a recommendation to the BoS in January. For more information, go to: www.protectspotsylvania.com

Reply

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2 Likes

- **CyanTeepee**

2hWe get no benefits unless you count deforestation, loss of property values, pollution of the aquifer residents wells rely upon, and the possibility that the land being used due to compaction and pollutants can never be used for agriculture again .. that's assuming the facility isn't walked away from and abandoned like so many others who it's lifetime usage limit is reached. NOT wanted in Spotsylvania! !

Kevin McCarthy
--
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703-473-3883 (c)

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This email was Malware checked by UTM 9. http://www.sophos.com