

Dumaine, Julia

From: HS Manager <hsmanager@waimct.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 12:04 PM
To: DEEP OPPD
Subject: Comments for Solar Siting and Permitting Process and Scope
Attachments: AAAS Community engagement and outreach education programs.pdf

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Hello,

Thank you for this opportunity. I am a resident of Willimantic and also work directly in this community with our low-income population primarily. I also chair a municipal board so am very involved in my community though not greatly knowledgeable about large-scale renewable energy projects and the vicissitudes of implementing such projects. My perspective is that of a CT resident who cares profoundly for the well-being of our natural environment and of the people who live in our community, particularly the most vulnerable. Reading through the Notice for the upcoming Scoping Meeting, these were the thoughts that came to mind.

- ✚ Brownfields should be perfect real estate for the development of renewable infrastructure. They are typically 'wasted' land in distressed communities that would most benefit from such development. I assume using these sites would be complicated from a bureaucratic and environmental safety perspective, but everything should be done to succeed.
- ✚ If you wish to engage the community, use this opportunity towards workforce development, hire within the community, and use this opportunity to educate the young and the old about good stewardship, renewable energy technology, and even the actual civics and science of this large-scale project. To this end, I just happened to come across an article in the journal Science which I am attaching. The AAAS has a wonderful mechanism for implementing scientific outreach and engagement that this project could take advantage of. I would be happy to help shepherd this to fruition or at least help find the right people to engage with in our community. (see attached)
- ✚ What is involved in and necessary to engage commercial and large residential complexes as sites (eg. Roof-tops of malls and shopping plazas, large apartment complexes)?
- ✚ How will we avoid using tracks of natural landscape altogether? Aren't there many empty lots around the State that might be suitable to develop?

- ✚ I do believe that other renewable energy types should be considered as more efficient technology develops. Diverse arrays of renewable energy options would allow greater flexibility and greater benefit.
- ✚ I believe that local stakeholders should include businesses, Town government, institutions (hospitals, academic, nonprofits and faith communities) and those who live in the community who might meet in several Town Hall-style forums.
- ✚ I would like to see the proposed gas-powered site targeted for development in Killingly reconsidered as a solar site. There is absolutely no good reason to spend tax payers (or anyone's) money on a dirty energy power station in 2021.

Thank you for considering my ideas and thoughts and for trying to attain a cleaner New England.

Merle

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"Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time."

- Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg