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From: karenb01@earthlink.net
Sent: Tuesday, June 22, 2021 9:50 PM
To: DEEP OPPD
Cc: 'Margaret'
Subject: Solar Siting - scoping comments

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Dear Commissioner Dykes and staff at DEEP:

Thank you for the outstanding discussion of solar siting.

As Co-chairs of the Watershed Lands Workgroup of the Water Planning Council Advisory Group, we are particularly concerned that source water lands be identified at the start of the solar siting application process so as to ensure that agencies, staff, stakeholders, and the public-at-large are aware of where a solar facility is being proposed. While increasing the amount of solar energy in the state is critical, it should not be done at the expense of protecting the state's drinking water resources.

In addition, we strongly believe that the that the Connecticut Siting Council (CSC) be involved at the very start of the solar siting planning process. We recommend that sites be analyzed for sensitive environmental features as part of the contract negotiations thereby saving time and possible confusion and frustration later on.

And finally, we have concerns about the Petition process that allows the CSC to decide whether or not to have a public hearing on a solar application..

We strongly believe that any guidelines established by DEEP for solar development be transparent, allow for public input, and be easily accessible by the public-at-large.

Again, thank you for your work on these vital issues.

Margaret Miner
Karen Burnaska