

Gronendyke, Kathleen M (EEA)

From: Nancy McHale <nlmchale@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 4:02 PM
To: EnergyPermitting (EEA)
Subject: Comments on Solar Site Suitability Guidance

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Dear EEA and DOER,

Please consider my comments relating to your site suitability guidelines drafts:

1- Section B- For site suitability scoring, please ensure that any individual or group who feels impacted or harmed can request a score review. under sections iv and v. The scoring system is very complicated and not at all intuitive to many of us who will be impacted. Also, because private lands aren't open to the general public to report areas that will be impacted, those impacts could be underrated.

2- For Section C Criteria, I. Climate Change Resilience The criteria should include encouraging the maintenance of intact forests, protecting all water, minimizing storm water run-off, and retaining soil integrity, in order to achieve greater resiliency in a changing climate. The Resilient Design Standards Tool should also be used to determine if the project will contribute or add to local conditions of Extreme Heat in the community. Please remember that no one ever sought shade under a solar panel. Don't destroy the forests which are lungs of the planet.

3 - For Section C. Criteria, II. Carbon Storage and Sequestration: The National Forest Carbon Monitoring System and the Annual NLCD land cover data web sites are not user friendly making it difficult for to review by local government or stakeholders. Additionally, private lands aren't open to the general public to report areas that will be impacted, those impacts could be underrated.

4- For Section C. Criteria, III. Biodiversity - There should be a process to ensure that a robust inventory of wildlife and rare species be applied in the Biodiversity Index, plus a clear mechanism for inclusive local appeal of the biodiversity criteria. Knowledge of the local flora and fauna rests with the local people not exclusively with the state's mapping tools. There needs to be more training of citizen scientists to ensure an accurate and robust assessment of Biodiversity.

5- For Section E. Other Considerations of Note, I. Drinking Water Supply- Ensure that communities maintain authority to protect all drinking water supplies, including for private wells and aquifers. Provide assurance that communities can use land use or public health bylaws to create regulations for drinking water supply protection. Good potable water is essential for the health and welfare of all people. Many towns would be hard pressed to provide good water to homes without private drinking water supplies. I have a private well and understand that groundwater can easily be contaminated. Please help to ensure our communities fiscal and physical good health.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my comments and concerns.

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