

Subject: Comments on Solar Site Suitability Guidance

Body of the email:

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.

2- For Section C Criteria, I. Climate Change Resilience The criteria should include encouraging the maintenance of intact forests, protecting water resources, 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.

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.

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 provide a clear mechanism for including local appeals of the biodiversity criteria.

5- For Section E. - Other Considerations of Note: I. Drinking Water Supply- ensure that communities maintain authority to protect all drinking water supplies, including aquifers and private wells, and provide assurance that communities can apply their zoning bylaws or public health bylaws to create regulations for drinking water supply protection.

Sincerely,

The Plainfield Conservation Commission

Sheilah Barry, Erik Burcroff, Jack Nelson and Judy Williams, Chair