

Re: "SMART Public Comment"

Joyce Eichacker <jeichacker.warrenconcom@gmail.com>

Thu 5/28/2020 3:10 PM

To: Daniel Bigda <Dan@m4cg.com>

Cc: SMART, DOER (ENE) <doer.smart@mass.gov>; Gobi, Anne (SEN) <anne.gobi@masenate.gov>; Berthiaume, Donald - Rep. (HOU) <dona.berthiaume@mahouse.gov>; McDiarmid, Lucas (SEN) <lucas.mcdiarmid@masenate.gov>; Gary Simeone <gmsyanks@aol.com>; chenshaw@eqlt.org <chenshaw@eqlt.org>; Daniel Bigda <dan@boxxcarco.com>

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Dan!

Thank you for this - I didn't know there was a period of "smart public comment". I'm on it!

Joyce Eichacker
Chair, Warren Conservation Commission
413-436-5701 x102

On Thu, May 28, 2020 at 1:08 PM Daniel Bigda <Dan@m4cg.com> wrote:

Dear People at DOER,

Thanks for your work to the amendment to the SMART program regarding SOLAR..

This is great news. As our small towns, like ours here in West Brookfield, We have To be smart on how these companies come in and 'take over'.

West Brookfield has also instilled strict zoning and decommissioning bylaws and other towns have taken our bylaw and adopted it for themselves. There are those of us who think this is a waste of tax payer monies, land, time, and also energy to install these arrays. Technology is always changing and the current built ones I feel will be obsolete in 5-7 years. Meaning in efficiencies and the towns will be left the clean these fields up. The World Health Organization is rating Solar Panel waste the next big problem with disposal of Panels. You CANNOT just through these Panels in the nearest dump and think these Panels will not contaminant anything - ground waters, etc. Panels have very harmful chemicals in them and once exposed, create issues with the areas around them wether the Panels are still on the racks in a field or in the ground..

Our town would like to see a Decommissioning Bylaw or Regulation from the State that covers the cost. And to NOT have Panels just thrown in a local dump - some regulation for this.

Panels need to be taken away to proper waste facilities to then disposed of the right way. Not just thrown or left at a field.

Costing for a 5 megawatt field to decommission is coming in around the \$3.5 million mark, to dispose of the Panels correctly. Small towns alone can't absorb this cost and our town with (5) fields, would totally bankrupt us.

Thanks for your time with my email.

Any questions, please do reach out.

Thanks,
Dan

Daniel M. Bigda
Senior Partner – Rail
M4 Capital Group
508-637-1340

dan@m4cg.com
www.m4cg.com

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Dear Members and Friends of MLTC,

On April 15, the MA Department of Energy Resources (DOER) released its emergency regulations to the Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART). The regulations now prohibit solar energy development where at least 50 percent of the parcel's land area is designated as Priority Habitat, Core Habitat, or Critical Natural Landscape as defined by BioMap2. We are encouraged by this prohibition and believe that greater incentives are still needed to further protect forests and natural lands from solar development by encouraging the development of solar on rooftops, parking canopies, highway cloverleaves, and other distributed areas. Please urge DOER to revise the SMART program to avoid, or at least significantly reduce, the number of forests and farmland that are being converted to large-scale ground-mounted solar arrays, and to better align this program with other state climate and land conservation programs and goals.

Please tell the DOER to prioritize natural resources over large-scale solar development! Written comments are due by June 1, 2020. You can submit comments electronically to doer.smart@mass.gov, and include "SMART Public Comment" in the subject line. Please cc your state legislator on your written comments. You can find your legislator [here](#). Learn more and find key points to make in your comments [here](#).