

To: Comments@efsec.wa.gov;Sarah.Reyneveld@atg.wa.gov

From: jonmathison@yahoo.com

Received: 2023-09-26T04:06:11+00:00

Subject: Carriger Solar Project YES!

Has attachment? False

External Email

RE: Carriger Solar Project

Thank you so much for the opportunity to comment on the Carriger Solar Project in unincorporated Klickitat County. Our state and our nation needs clean energy projects. We need solar rooftops on each of our homes and many-many more clean solar farms and this solar project is a great start. Please support this project on its multiple merits:

1. It is located near existing transmission; this is one of the largest hurdles for clean energy projects and this project nails it!
2. It is well outside the nearest small town.
- 3 It has a battery energy storage system to enable storage of solar energy.

I congratulate the project proponent on a beneficial project for our state, our country, and our world.

Now I couldn't help but read a few comments and there are some really interesting thoughts out there. EFSEC, please put zero weight to the NIMBYs comments, though do peruse to understand how the gullible are manipulated. Some of my faves:

(0022) "BESS lithium-ion battery fires explosions and deadly fumes are a real danger." Quite a few authors follow this bizarre argument. Let me guess that this author is car-dependent, drives a gas/diesel truck, and breathes those fumes every time they drive anywhere and fuel up. Every gas station the author ever used is now a hazardous site with benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene, and xylene (BTEX) leaking into the local water. Then the author goes home to their fracked gas-heat, fracked gas water heater, and perhaps worst of all a fracked gas stove to further worsen their asthma and respiratory issues. But they took enough time to snivel about fumes from a sealed battery? Gullible just doesn't do justice to this entire group of authors.

It is also evident they don't understand relative risks, that EVs have an order of magnitude fewer fires than gas/diesel cars, and for stationary batteries its orders of magnitude less than that... the CEASE website shows a picture from... South Korea. Really, that's the closest building battery fire they could find a picture of? That should have been a clue, there are daily fires at gas stations and cars throughout the US. From NFPA:

*From 2014 through 2018, local fire departments responded to an estimated average of **4,150 fires in or on service or gas station properties per year**. These fires caused an average of three civilian deaths, 43 civilian fire injuries, and \$30.0 million in direct property damage annually... In 2021, there were **around 174,000 highway vehicle fires reported in the United States**. This is a slight increase from the previous year, where there were 173,000 highway vehicle fires reported across the country.*

(036) "too close to the *dense population* of the City of Glendale". Yep, a real New York meets Tokyo kind of density in Glendale. The comment is funny but let's not lose sight that if buildings and homes were required to have solar we wouldn't need solar farms at all... just have the solar in the center of the dense populations... like Glendale :-)

(038) "You are destroying the future of your children and other citizens by certifying this project and others"... No,

anyone continuing their use of fossil fuel directly harms their children and the future, certainly not solar projects and battery projects. By aligning against solar projects these citizens do maximum harm to their children and grandchildren.

(039) "Has there been a study on the impact of solar projects on the aquifer and the water table surrounding the projects? Our understanding is that large scale solar projects use a tremendous amount of water." This author confuses thermal generation plants with photovoltaics... if the author is concerned about water use, then they need to speak out against every coal plant and every fracked gas plant and they need to speak out FOR every photovoltaic installation. Excellent point, well taken, the author simply lined up on the wrong side of their own issue.

() "This project will destroy the land for future use". How? Solar and farming are completely complementary and should be encouraged.

(0002 20230321) "Why should I be facing a 30% drop in my property value so someone else (who does not live here) can make a profit?" Don't know, who convinced you your land value would drop at all?

(040) "We have solar panels on the roof of our house where they belong". I agree. Now if we can get the rest of your fellow authors to do the right thing and put solar on their homes rather than trying to out-do each other in nuttiness we might not even need large solar farms. Alas, you are up against entrenched PUDs and energy providers that want control of the power. If buildings make their own power, then energy companies can't control it and profits dry up. So solar farms are the "next best" until the gullible begin to think.

Reading those comments was too much fun, thank you. Thank you also to Carriger for putting together such a wonderful solar project and Godspeed.

Jon
Member NFPA
Member NSPE
Senior Member IEEE Power Energy Society

Attachments:

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