

My name is Doreen O'Sullivan
am writing to the planning board today
to express my concerns with the possible
installation of solar arrays on the property
bordering mine on Rt 82 Ancramdale, town
of Ancram.

One of my concerns being the change
of rural landscape from agricultural to
metal, glass and steel, an industrial landscape.
Even though the arrays may not be
visible from the road it raises another
concern. What are the intentions of the LLC
in the future. 10 acres today then 10 more
in a few years, 10 more after that until
you are at my back door?

Another concern these arrays can
alter everything from sun exposure to
surface temperatures which can have vast
and unexpected impacts on plants and
animals and even alter the area's microbiome.

The dark surfaces of solar panels
absorb most of the light and heat that
reaches them. However, only about 15% of
incoming energy is converted to electricity.
The rest is returned to the environment
as heat. Because panels are so much darker
than surrounding vegetation, solar fields
will absorb and emit heat at rates, which
can have unknown consequences on

the surrounding environment.

According to Jeffrey Lovich, a research ecologist with the U.S Geological Survey, some solar panels "can incinerate insects" and burn feathers of birds that fly through." Solar panels can also change the migration pattern of some birds.

I also have concerns with disposal of damaged panels. Although labeled clean energy solar panels harbor a cocktail of toxic compounds and chemicals including cadmium compounds, silicon tetrachloride, hexafluoroethane and lead.

The panels don't last forever. Industry standard for lifespan is 25 to 30 years. Those toxic compounds are a concern not only during manufacturing process but also when spent or damaged panels have lost their usefulness and must be disposed of. There is also a concern about toxic substances leaking from panels if damaged. Which leads to a concern of the infrastructure that is put in the ground to support the panels. The concrete, and galvanized metal these arrays sit on. They leach zinc into the ground. Zinc maybe an essential micronutrient, but if too much leaches into the soil, there's no way to get it out.

It leads to soil erosion and uselessness of the soil.

Noise from the transformers and invertors have been reported.

Maintenance - how will you get back to the arrays during winter to inspect for damage or leakage?

Property values lower and who benefits from the electricity produced?

If its national grid not me or my community!

my back yard has seen a host of wildlife which includes, deer, turkey, eagles, fox, bobcats, all kind of birds and more.

This will dramatically change, thus changing my quality of life.

I get it, its more profitable, less labor, and less risk than farming. But, how is it that feeding the country is less financially gratifying than putting up some panels made in China and getting a check from somebody in the mail.

I worry about the future of food production in this country. If we export food production somewhere else and something happens like Covid, and borders shut down what happens? Will we be a nation without food?

but with a bunch of shiny solar panels in the fields making someone feel good because they're getting "green energy." Which all this metal and steel and toxic production and disposal will have a significant effect on the climate, air quality and land use.

I guess one of my biggest concerns and question is like I mentioned in the beginning - What is the LLC's intentions for the future? Are ^{you} planning on growing coming ~~far~~ forward with more panels? I certainly hope not.

I want to thank the board for taking the time to listen to all my concerns.

Thank you,
Doreen O'Sullivan
and James