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Provide the docket's number.	IP7153/ESS-25-88

Leave a comment on the docket. *

I am submitting this comment in strong opposition to the proposed Summit Lake Solar and Battery Storage project.

This project represents a large-scale industrial conversion of agricultural land that is fundamentally incompatible with the surrounding rural landscape and existing land use. Nearly 2,000 acres of productive farmland would be removed from agricultural use for decades, with no guarantee that it will ever be meaningfully restored.

The scale and permanence of this project raise serious concerns that cannot be mitigated through permitting conditions.

First, the environmental impacts are substantial. The project introduces widespread land disturbance, long-term soil disruption, drainage system interference, and habitat alteration. Testimony has already identified impacts to major drainage systems affecting thousands of acres and significant property value. These are not minor or temporary effects—they are structural changes to the land.

Second, the human impacts are clear and unacceptable. Residents have already described existing noise and lighting from nearby infrastructure as disruptive to daily life. Expanding industrial activity through a solar facility and battery energy storage system will intensify these problems. Continuous noise, artificial lighting, and the presence of large-scale infrastructure will permanently alter the character of the area and degrade quality of life for nearby residents.

Third, safety concerns surrounding battery energy storage systems must be taken seriously. Incidents elsewhere have demonstrated the risks associated with these facilities, including fire hazards and the challenges they pose for local emergency response. Even with proposed mitigation measures, the potential consequences are significant and long-lasting.

Fourth, this project contributes to a broader pattern of industrialization of rural farmland tied to external energy and data demands. Local communities are being asked to absorb the environmental and social costs of infrastructure that primarily serves distant users. That is not a balanced or equitable outcome.

Finally, mitigation is not the same as prevention. Noise modeling, setbacks, vegetation buffers, and permit conditions do not change the fundamental incompatibility of this project with its location. Once this land is converted, the impact is effectively permanent for the lifetime of the project.

For these reasons, I urge the Commission to deny the permit for the Summit Lake Solar and Battery Storage project.

The standard should not be whether impacts can be managed, but whether this project is appropriate at all. It is not.
