

From: [John Wagner](#)
To: [Staff, CAO \(PUC\); MN_PUC_PublicAdvisor](#)
Subject: Byron Solar Project (Docket# GS-20-763, TL-20-765)
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Dear MN Public Utilities Commission,

As a resident of Dodge County and the Canisteo Township I strongly urge you to deny the permit request for the Byron Solar Project.

Please review the project, not through the rosy colored glasses EDF has provided.

My concerns are as follows

-Climate change, war and more are impacting global food, fertilizer & fuel supplies each of which is poised to increase the cost of food and increase the chances of famine in the future. Even President Biden himself comment earlier this year of the potential of food shortage. With this in mind, using 1800 acres of prime farmland and tying it up for greater than 30-years is not the optimal usage of land. There are many places in the county that are better suited for solar that will not impact/reduce farmable acres. These places are frequently ignored as they are not as financially beneficial for the applicant. Also, parking lots and commercial buildings are better locations as well, they provide coverage for vehicles, the power where its needed and again, don't impact farmable acres.

- I attribute living in country surrounded by nature and fields with an increase in mental wellness. There are many studies that show the benefits of nature, replacing nature with solar panels will reduce this impact and the integrity of the country side

- Noise(substations): Electrical buzz at substations have a cumulative impact on mental health. I believe this is another reason not to approve, but should the project be approved it should be contingent on locating the substations greater than 1000ft from hopes animals, etc.

- Noise(pile driving): Though the pile driving is temporary, folks that have experience it would describe it as very disruptive. I frequently work from home and am greatly concerned about that disruption. More importantly, I have children under the age of 8 that have a bedtime of 8pm which is 2 hrs before the MN noise rules that allow pile driving to occur until 10pm. Pile driving after 8 will impact their sleep/wake schedules whih in turn will impact school and other social settings.

- I'm also very concerned about an impact on property values, my family purchased our property just prior to the public notification of the project and I can personally say I would not have made an offer had the property been located next to a solar farm. This is clear evidence there will be reduced interest when it comes time to sell which in turn will yield to less demand and therefore less value. A big selling point for us was the beautiful views out over the fields.

- Due to the sheer size of the project I'm also concerned of the impact to local wildlife. With the area fenced off, deer, coyotes & pheasants will be pushed to new travel corridors potentially creating dead zones in some places and additional nussiiances in others

- I also have concerns about wind noise, light reflections and the creation of a micro climate due to the sea of black which may impact the properties bordered by the solar farm.

- Lastly, Dodge co 6 is gravel and notorious for dust that will impact the effectiveness of the panels thus making them less beneficial than advertised. The dust phenomenon floats greater than 500 ft most frequently to the north and east. This is based on first hand experience.
- Light reflection
- Creation of microclimate

Best regards,
John Wagner