

**From:** [MN\\_PUC\\_PublicAdvisor](#)  
**To:** [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: public comment E-999/M-17-123  
**Date:** Monday, May 11, 2020 11:49:37 AM

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Please efile.

Thanks!  
Charley

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**From:** Jane Youngkrantz <jdyoungkrantz@frontiernet.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 08, 2020 4:11 PM  
**To:** MN\_PUC\_PublicAdvisor <publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us>  
**Cc:** Cotton, Amanda (MPCA) <amanda.cotton@state.mn.us>  
**Subject:** FW: public comment E-999/M-17-123

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I am resending this comment sheet, this time with the docket number E-999/M-17-123

Thank you

May 8, 2020

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on decommissioning of solar garden photovoltaic panels and wind turbines. I am currently one of the Directors for the Minnesota Association of Townships; Board member for the Kandiyohi County SWCD and Board member on the County Planning Commission.

**Initial Problem:** Many solar gardens throughout the rural area are getting approved for placement without full information as to what is involved with decommissioning. It is an industry that has been promoted so fast that the county and townships have not been prepared to properly address the eventual need.

**Process:** The issue begins with the power company and land owner's packet of information that has the looks of fine detail and lawyers ready to come after the county if there is an application denial.

It is typical to have representatives of the power company present the project, answer a few questions and verbally assure the solar panels are harmless and 'recyclable'.

**Resulting Problem:** At this time, it is not uncommon for the decommissioning process regulations at the county level to state "the removal and disposal of equipment shall meet the requirements of the solid waste ordinance." Many are unaware of the 'hazardous' aspect of the spent panels or the volume of landfill that is needed for the turbine blades. People tend to think in terms of twenty or thirty years for the decommissioning process and do not take into consideration the immediate problem should natural disasters happen to the panels or the wind turbines fall short of their projected longevity.

We, as township officers or County Planning Commissioners are told that once the application is approved, all terms of the agreement are final, regardless of any 'review' process now or in five years.

**Therefore,** it is imperative that the MPCA establish a standard immediately placing the responsibility of the power company or manufacturer to take the panels and blades back to their warehouse to store them until a recycling operation is established.

Thank You,

Jane Youngkrantz

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