

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENTS ON RENEWABLE ENERGY SITING

My name is Charles Kelly. I am from the Town of Addison and a member of the Planning Commission, but I am speaking for myself today.

I thank the Committees for this opportunity to speak. Particularly, Representative Van Wyck for his notice of this meeting on our Front Porch Forum site.

As an individual I have spent 34 years of my career in the energy field. I am a registered PE in the State of Vermont. I tell you this so you know I take energy and its necessary production seriously.

My concerns are:

I see little information of a detailed solar energy plan or periodic progress reports that gives me confidence that the siting of solar arrays as they are now being proliferated are actually going to replace the loss of central generated power. I do not see an in-depth economic analysis that shows that this de-centralized approach is both doable with regard to pronounced RE goals, and affordable for the average Vermonter.

Siting of Solar Arrays are being done without regard to the planning goals of municipalities. The Public Service Board is approving projects without properly considering the impact on property values, aesthetics, and non-solar economic development. All without site visits. The PSB has blatant disregard of the procedural due process clause in the U.S. Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments. Developers are leap-frogging along three phase arteries at will.

Lastly, the intermittence of solar energy production coupled with the limits that utilities can absorb during peak times will make electric storage the only viable alternative in a 90% RE environment. I do not see anything in the legislature of an RE plan that addresses the siting of electric storage units or even the anticipation of such.