# Bright Night Dutchman Renewable Power Project

## **Project Technical Concerns**

- Interference with wildlife patterns, livestock grazing, and loss of habitat 1
- Reduced natural beauty, risk to cultural or paleontological artifacts 1
- Disruptions to native vegetation 1
- Interference with rainfall 1
- Lowered property values 2
- Soil compaction, potential alteration of drainage channels, increased runoff and erosion 1
- Increased demand on available water resources 1
- Surface or groundwater contamination by hazardous chemicals such as
  - dust suppressants 1
  - o dielectric fluids 1
  - herbicides 1
  - o oils 1
  - o molten salts 1
  - o hydraulic fluids 1
  - coolants 1
  - o lubricants 1
  - ∘ lead 3
  - o cadmium 3
  - o copper indium gallium (di)selenide 8
  - hexafluoroethane 8
  - o polyvinyl fluoride 8
  - o silicon tetrachloride 8
  - and other particulate matter 1
- The highly geometric, highly reflective surfaces, and size of the structures will not only create an eye sore but CPS systems could potentially cause interference with aircraft operations if reflected light beams become misdirected into aircraft pathways 1
- Operation of solar facilities...involves high temperatures that may post an environmental or safety risk 1
- Built solar assets are chronically under-performing and modules are degrading faster than expected 5
- Solar Waste

- $\circ$  Solar panels create 300 times more toxic waste per unit of energy than do nuclear power plants  $_3$
- $^{\circ}~$  The waste produced by solar panels will make electricity four times more expensive than projected by leading energy analysts  $_4$
- The cost to recycle a solar panel is 10 to 30 times greater than sending it to a landfill 4
- Solar panels are delicate and break easily. When they do, they instantly become hazardous due to their heavy metal contents 4
- $^{\circ}\,$  Increased taxes. 'As such, taxpayers will likely have to subsidize the clean up of solar panel waste'  $_4$
- Due to the project's close proximity to a major river, pollution could spread to a large region.
- Due to the age of the technology, other unknown risks likely exist.

### **Political Concerns**

- China came to dominate the solar panel manufacturing market, producing 71% to 97% of solar panel components  $_{\rm 6}$
- The Chinese government admits that it operates 'surplus labor' programs relocating millions of people from their homes in Xinjiang. <sub>6</sub>
- Increasing dependency upon a potential adversary for manufacturing and/or energy resources is misguided at best.
  - "Without exception we see the consistent, wise refusal to confront the armed forces of the strong country head-to-head. Instead the weaker side has contended with its adversary by using guerrilla war, terrorist war, holy war, protracted war, network war, and other forms of combat. Mostly the weaker side selects as its main axis of battle those areas of battle-lines which its adversary does not expect to be hit." 7

## **Project Provider Concerns**

- Past public interactions may indicate dishonesty and/or a lack of transparency
  - "Chris Wisser-Tyson said a buyer for 280 megawatts is in place, and there is interest from potential buyers of the rest of the electricity. Later, after several questions about who would use that power, Wisser-Tyson said it would be distributed through the power grid to users in Washington and parts of Oregon. He didn't name the specific buyer." 9
  - "BrightNight is NOT a leading solar company as Staff otherwise represented to Council. They are actually a start-up company formed only a little over a year ago in January, 2019 as a Limited Liability Corporation in Delaware. It was only registered in California as a Foreign Limited Liability Corporation on February 11, 2020" 9

- "None of the projects listed on Brightnights website as evidence of their experience were projects in which BrightNight Energy had actually even participated as a developer or subcontractor. Nor could they have done so because BrightNight was not even in existence at the time the projects were completed" 9
- Some of their public comments seem like poorly thought out non-sense "said their company would improve the property's historic use as grazing land, with the shade of thousands of solar panels potentially doubling plant growth" <sub>9</sub>

#### **Citations**

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