

Kingwood Exhibit 37

Row Cropping vs. Solar Facility

From: nicole marvin (nicole@nicolemarvin.com)

To: krajicek@att.net; fife.terry@yahoo.com; jeniferadams10@gmail.com

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All,

I met Sarah through the AFT folks.

I haven't read through these, but wanted to share in case you want to pass them along to folks in the group. They may give us info we need as we move forward.

Stay warm!

N

Hi Nicole,

The environmental impacts of solar vs. row cropping is something that I've just started to have a student look into (we're working with a soil ecologist to scope out a project). Two of the most relevant papers that he's found are here:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S136403212030071X?via%3Dihub>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2212041620301698?via%3Dihub>

It's hard to make a definitive head-to-head comparison because it depends a bit on existing farming practices (are they practicing regenerative ag?) as well as on the design of the solar project (i.e., what's planted underneath?) and which environmental services you are looking at. But generally, solar gives the soil a rest from tilling and fertilizer use, which can offer ecological benefits to the soil and water quality improvements--not unlike [CRP](#).

~Sarah

Sarah Banas Mills, PhD
Senior Project Manager, Graham Sustainability Institute
Lecturer, Program in the Environment
University of Michigan



Modeling the ecosystem services of native vegetation management practices at solar energy facilities in the
Midwestern United States.pdf

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Summary: Exhibit Applicant Exh 37 electronically filed by Mr. Ken Spencer on
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