

Roland Franke

2211 Oak Corner Road
Hamersville, OH 45130

July 25, 2019

Ohio Power Siting Board
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215-3793

RE: 18-1546-EL-BGN Nestlewood Solar Facility

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am a property owner with residence adjacent to the proposed Nestlewood Solar Facility site.

Recently it brought to my attention that birds can cause a fire in solar panel installations like the one proposed by Nestlewood Solar I LLC.

One recent incident, on June 5, 2019, involved a solar farm in California that scorched **1,127** acres.
(see article below, which LA Times published on their website)

Knowing the fact that birds can easily cause devastating fires on solar panels installations, it is irresponsible to plan a solar panel power plant in an area surrounded by forested areas and in close proximity to people's residences.

It would also be irresponsible to grant approval for a solar panel facility in an area that is surrounded by forested areas and in close proximity to people's residences.

It is therefore requested that Nestlewood Solar I LLC be denied approval for all areas of the proposed site that are in close proximity to forested areas and/or residences.

Information from LA Times published at

<https://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-bird-fire-solar-farm-20190624-story.html>

How a bird started a fire at a California solar farm

By Bloomberg

June 24, 2019

5:15 PM

Bloomberg

It may be safe for a bird to land on an electrical wire, but not on two of them at once.

A June 5 fire at a California solar farm that scorched 1,127 acres started when a bird flew into a pair of wires, creating an electric circuit and a shower of sparks, a California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection official said. It didn't end well for the power plant — or the bird.

“One wing touches each of the conductors, and they turn into a light bulb,” said Zach Nichols, a Cal Fire battalion chief. “Happens all the time.”

The company that owns the California Valley Solar Ranch solar farm, Clearway Energy Inc., had blamed the fire on an “avian incident” without saying what exactly happened at the remote facility in the arid grasslands between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

The blaze damaged power poles and wires at the 250-megawatt plant and knocked out 84% of its generating capacity, causing an estimated \$8 million to \$9 million in losses, the company said.

The California Valley project was built by SunPower Corp. and was funded in part with a \$1.24-billion loan guarantee from the U.S. Energy Department. It was completed in 2013 and sells power to PG&E Corp Pacific Gas & Electric.

California is home to a different solar plant that's notorious for burning birds. But that facility — the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System in the Mojave Desert — uses another technology altogether. At Ivanpah, fields of mirrors concentrate sunlight onto centralized towers, posing a hazard to birds flying into the beams.

The California Valley fire, in contrast, occurred at a solar farm that uses photovoltaic panels, just like the ones on rooftops.

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