



Comments – West Linn Solar Project Site Feasibility

March 12 – April 30, 2010

#	Contact Summary	Comment from
OH1	Please explain how you can meet West Linn's riparian codes that require restoration of wetland/riparian areas that are discovered – whether disturbed site or natural	West Linn City Councilor
OH2	Address wetland/Title 13 protection where panels are to be built and drainage	West Linn City Councilor
OH3	No consideration for the background noise increase from removing soft vegetative surface and replacing with hard reflective solar panels. The background noise level for residences adjacent will increase	BHT Neighborhood citizen
OH4	Noise – I heard about the study of the noise the invertors make, but no one could answer me about studies done to measure the sound of rain hitting 13,000 glass panels. Has a study been done to measure that noise?	BHT Neighborhood citizen
OH5	My family (ages 40, 37, 9 & 6) are all very excited & proud that our city is being considered for this project. We look forward to using the solar site as an educational tool & an example of Oregon's progressive thinking, if this project is approved. As a citizen of West Linn and a mother, I am very glad that detailed feasibility studies are part of this major decision; I certainly wouldn't want anyone to rush into a project of this size. However, with what I have seen, I feel that this project appears beneficial overall. We must look at the long term & broad-ranging effects of our energy usage, & not just the aesthetic concerns of a wealthy minority. I am here tonight to represent the educated lower middle class who is supportive of this project. Thank you to ODOT for your thorough representation tonight.	West Linn citizen
OH6	My major concern is as it has been stated that the solar panels are going to attract tourism. I don't want West Linn to be a "tourist" city. I don't want tourists or strangers in my neighborhood! Will there be a sign on the freeway advertising the solar panels? If so, this will attract strangers to my neighborhood, which could equal crime! It is very disappointing that this idea came about in the first place. I am saddened that "the world's largest solar panel" site will be advertised as a tourist attraction.	BHT Neighborhood citizen
OH7	When I bought my house 1- years ago I wanted to live here because it is a great neighborhood. The proposed trail head at Imperial Drive shouldn't be in a neighborhood. This solar panel project isn't designed to be in a neighborhood either. There is plenty of open space outside West Linn city limits to do a solar project. A trail to "showcase" the solar panels will be a huge detriment to our neighborhood and bring crime into it. As it stands now, we have very little crime. Having increased cars in our area will only increase potential problems. There is no need for a trail in my neighborhood.	BHT Neighborhood citizen
OH8	Solar Highway Trail – very concerned at the future trail connection which goes directly across our backyard – on our property. This is Tanner Creek – the trail looks to go straight up Tanner Creek – completely infeasible	BHT Neighborhood citizen



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OH9	Go to it – timewise is now – let’s not be behind the rest of the world	West Linn citizen
OH10	This project is not economically feasible! Allowing PGE to sell the tax credits to a bank! Is a waste of the taxpayers money! I do not support this boondoggle!	Oregon City citizen
OH11	I am very proud and excited to have a renewable energy source like this project in my city. I hope West Linn can become a leader for solar power in the state.	West Linn citizen
OH12	Concerns: 1 – should a major solar plant be in a metropolitan area? I do not think so. 2 – environment to wildlife, to run off, to slide area, to fire potential. 3 – use of public funds, especially when a shortfall. 4 – who is liable if something goes wrong? 5 – should be a land use process for a large solar plant. 6 – are we sure there is no slide-earthquake problem especially after reading O.G.A.M.I.s maps.	Oregon City citizen
OH13	I am totally against this project! This will not benefit West Linn! It is a waste of \$ due to inefficient technology. Please don’t destroy our lovely Green City!!!	West Linn citizen
OH14	Let’s make this happen.	West Linn citizen
OH15	I think this is a great idea. It will help with CO2 reduction, help economic development, & teach our children about what we can do now. More later.	West Linn citizen
OH16	The next project we need is for PGE work with city government & ODOT to have their city solar for all residents and operated by PGE	West Linn citizen
OH17	I am in favor of this project. It addresses the State’s commitment to sustainable, clean energy while protecting and enhancing the natural resources on the site. I believe this is the way forward and hope to see ongoing commitment to projects like this.	West Linn citizen
OH18	This is a huge undertaking on the taxpayer and the maintenance to be on the City of West Linn (already broke). My biggest issue is for the wildlife, of which there is many. There is currently no path for pedestrians into Willamette. Would that not be a more useful way to spend our taxes? The noise level is also a worry, and I fear this may affect the value of my home. The fire risk has not been properly addressed, nor has the parking of trail visitors.	BHT Neighborhood citizen



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OH19	Main issue is the trail. Would rather see a pedestrian trail from the entrance of BHA to downtown Willamette. Over this project - is political, a good feel project. Makes more sense to put this in E. Oregon and attach to the grid there.	BHT Neighborhood citizen
EM1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is it still true that ODOT grants access in an proposed agreement with PGE and associated developers, to where the proposed lands in ODOT Right-of-Way Lands, in West Linn are to be offered without payment, other then as called for within the proposed agreement to where it cover some levels of miscellaneous ground maintenance that maybe associated with the installation of the proposed West Linn Solar Highway Project? 2. Is it still true that ODOT does not get any "ODOT Owned Power" directly from this proposed "West Linn Solar Highway Project" without having to buy it back from PGE? 3. Is it true that what ODOT does get is: "Green Credits" that allows ODOT to buy "PGE Green Electric Power" at non-green power rates? 4. Is it true that mostly out-of-state Financial Entities are lined up to fund this project and receive all of the green energy grants and green energy tax incentives and that these government funded tools will pay for most all of this project with tax payer money, both federal and state? 5. Is it true that only a very small percentage of all dollars invested into this project are not going to be completely paid back to the investors over a period of time, where PGE for example will have nothing virtually coming out of their pockets? 6. Is it still true that City like West Linn or Oregon City receive NO financial benefit other then West Linn getting SDC/Impact Fees and/or some other miscellaneous fees? 7. What financial benefits does the citizens of West Linn and Oregon City get directly from this proposed West Linn Solar Highway Project? 8. What is the true estimated cost to the "Tax Payers of the State of Oregon" in real cost of employees and benefits within ODOT associated with this project up to this point and in the future? 9. What is the true estimated cost to the "Tax Payers of West Linn and Oregon City" separately, in real cost of employees and benefits associated with pushing this project through? 	Oregon City citizen
EM2	I am against this solar project. It is not cost effective. I am tired of the state spending money for wasteful projects. Solar energy is not cost effective. They require massive subsidies from government. Solar systems take 40-50 years to break even. No, this project should not be built. The State of Oregon does not have the money to waste on this project.	Oregon City business owner



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EM3	<p>The Statewide Landslide Information Database for Oregon (SLIDO), Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries website found at http://www.oregongeology.org/interactivemaps/slido/ shows the area in consideration as being a serious slide hazard. I believe this is the most recent study, performed just last year. The proposed site has been sitting vacant for at least as long as I have been a resident of West Linn (12 years). I can think of no better use for the space. I am a huge proponent of solar energy, and think we need to be doing more environmentally responsible maneuvers such as this.</p> <p>However, I would like to know, and perhaps others would as well, what measures would be taken to ensure the security of the properties above the proposed site. I believe the SLIDO map indicates where landslides have taken place previously, and are therefore considered to occur again. I would hope the state would consider taking preventative measures against landslides during the installation of the panels.</p>	West Linn citizen
USM1 (on OH form)	<p>No on solar & trail!! We lose security, and possibly our health. No fire protection, landslide prone, will bring vandalism, crime and other problems to our neighborhood. The SW winds blow right up the ODOT property to our homes! (at least 95% of the time!) We do not believe in your noise report. Also, this is not financially feasible! The site is inappropriate!</p>	BHT Neighborhood citizen
EM4	<p>My name is Claire Carlson and I am a West Linn resident who is very happy and proud that this project is going to be in my city. There are an infinite amount of reasons to reject this project or any project, but it takes a much braver community to step up in support. Solar power is clean and almost as efficient as coal (if you take into account the energy wasted in mining, transportation of the coal, combustion, and delivery). It is important for people to take steps every day in conservation, energy efficiency and then supporting renewable energy.</p> <p>I hope West Linn becomes a town of solutions, not arguments.</p>	West Linn citizen
EM5	<p>After reviewing this RFP, (#24096 Mini-Solicitation for City of West Linn Trail Bike/Ped Path Project), a confused citizen ponders a couple of questions:</p> <p>Why is there no limit to the cost of the final trail's design, i.e., why are the Proposers not given a maximum amount the trail can cost? (Is it because US taxpayers will pick up the tab, not the city of West Linn or ODOT?)</p> <p>Why is Willamette Falls Drive, from Sunset to 10th Street, not included as a potential location for the Bike/Ped Path? It is used heavily by bikers right now and has connections all the way to Wilsonville or Tualatin, right now.</p>	BHT Neighborhood citizen (comment #1)



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EM6	<p>West Linn just got rid of a major ODOT eye sore when the 205 rest area was closed. Now ODOT wants to spend more money on a solar project that will take decades to pay off, if ever. The only thing that this project is sure to produce is another rest area eye sore. No long term jobs for Oregon or West Linn. No beautiful walking trail – you have already said the view is looking onto a highway and sewage settling ponds. Who wants to go for a walk with that view! Don't do it!</p>	West Linn citizen
EM7	<p>I attended the recent open house in West Linn regarding solar panel installation and a proposed trail. A recent mailing tells me that the solar project is on hold, but the trail is still under review and consideration.</p> <p>I live in Barrington Heights and am most concerned about this proposed trail. The current design has an entrance and exit on Imperial Drive promoting easy access to homes in my neighborhood by potential vandals entering from a more exposed location off 10th street. There are many children living on or near Imperial, and houses with back yards that will abut the proposed trail. As you know, there are frequent police stops on this road as thieves from Seattle and California pull off I-205 for a rest break from their deliveries or getaways. The proposed trail would be an excellent escape route either on foot, or by car (breaking through any likely wooden barrier).</p> <p>Prior to moving to Oregon, I lived in a rural part of NY state which had a lovely trail converted from an old train track. While many people used the trail for recreation, time proved that each 3-6 months, muggings, runaway cars and fugitives were avid users of the paved oasis.</p> <p>If there is momentum to complete a trail, please do not have it open onto Imperial Drive to help prevent the sorts of criminal behavior so frequently found on other trails in Oregon and around the country.</p>	BHT Neighborhood citizen



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EM8	<p>After reviewing ODOT’s feasibility study one is struck with its superficiality. One example is the soil/hill stability analysis. It is a static, or current, study. It does not anticipate the impact of tree removal, percolation changes, construction on the hillside, or other changes that will happen as the power plant is built and after it is in operation. The study used only 3 borings in a straight north-south line and confined its conclusions to the soils in these 3 borings—for a site that PGE says will be 1 million square feet in area.</p> <p>Why did ODOT not do a predictive/anticipatory hillside stability study?</p> <p>Why did ODOT not insist on a more comprehensive analysis of a hillside with a recent history of large instability? (Has not CH2M Hill done multiple borings on this hillside?)</p> <p>Why did ODOT not include or refer to West Linn’s Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan that references this area’s fragility?</p> <p>Why did ODOT not address the issue of stability in and after an earthquake given the multiple crustal faults in the immediate area? (See above Mitigation Plan)</p> <p>Given the financial unsoundness (per ODOT, >100 years to payback) of this power plant in this time of the state’s fiscal troubles why spend taxpayers money on such an unnecessary and possibly dangerous endeavor? (Even Gov. Kulongoski feels the state is spending too much.)</p>	<p>BHT Neighborhood citizen (comment #2)</p>



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EM9	<p>I am very concerned about the fire danger that this Solar Highway project could cause:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Likely an unstoppable fire chute up the hillside encouraged by the winds that come up that hillside. There was a fire on that hillside in 2003. There is NO emergency access from the hilltop to fight fires from the top/front. · The solar panels are charged during the day making a fire even more difficult to put out. In California a Target store burned longer because the solar panels had to be “de-energized” before firefighters could approach them and put water on the fire that was caused by solar panel wiring. http://www.bakersfield.com/news/local/x1442645194/Crime-shorts-Arcing-power-line-caused-Target-solar-panel-fire. Any delay on this windy hillside could mean someone loses their home. · People cause 90% of all wildfires. If a trail (as proposed) is placed around the solar panels the probability of a fire will go up. · Embers can spread in the wind up to a 1.5 mile radius (from Riverknoll Way); 1 mile is north to Apollo Road; east to 4th St in Oregon City and River St. in WL; west to 19th St. in Oregon City. · ODOT has a letter from TVFR in their Feasibility Study that states that TVFR believes the development of the Solar project will make the hillside “safer”. I saw another letter from TVFR that says that statement “was not based on any scientific fact”. I was shown this second letter by people who are opposed to this project but I have not seen the letter presented by ODOT or the City of West Linn. <p>I want to make sure we are getting all the pertinent information from the people doing this project. During this very difficult economic time there are people who can't put food on the table but our government is spending \$20 million dollars on this solar highway. Let's make sure they are spending our money wisely.</p>	BHT Neighborhood citizen
EM10	<p>I have received your Summary of Proposed West Linn Solar Highway Project Site Feasibility Analysis. I was unable to respond via your website link. Given that it will take >100 years to payback this project, yet the life span of a solar panel is under 50 years and considering the current fiscal situation of our state and federal governments, why spend taxpayers money on such an endeavor? Next, can you determine what the sound of rain and hail on 17,000 solar panels will be? I look forward to your prompt response.</p>	BHT Neighborhood citizen
EM11	<p>I am a resident of Barrington Heights and am concerned of the impact this project may have on our community. Traffic concerns, safety of the homes directly by the solar site deeply worry me. We pay for the nice environment we reside in and I would like to keep it this way. I am all for using "Green Power" whenever possible as long as it doesn't impact our residents.</p>	BHT Neighborhood citizen



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EM12	<p>After reviewing ODOT’s feasibility study one is struck with its superficiality. Another example is the complete lack of fire hazard analysis. The only reference is TVFR’s letter of “opinion” that developed property typically has less fire hazard than undeveloped property. Missing: TVFR’s second letter stating this opinion was not based on any scientific or factual study of the hillside (see attached). Also missing: any incorporation of Oregon’s Dept. of Energy “Model Energy Ordinance” which specifies a Fire Plan, see page 19, attached. There is no mention or concern for fuel, ignition sources (people), prevailing winds and ember travel, water sources, fire paths, fighting locations, fire fighting equipment, fire intensity, etc. One expert we sought out described the hillside as, “... another Oakland hillside (California) waiting to happen!”</p> <p>Why did ODOT not do an inventory of flammable plant life on the hillside and create a plan to mitigate this fuel?</p> <p>Why did ODOT not even make an attempt at a Fire Plan for the hillside? (Overt and public planning with TVFR?)</p> <p>Why have ODOT and TVFR ignored the fact that this hillside gets severely moisture stressed (causing even less flammable plants to be a danger) in the late summer and early fall?</p> <p>Why have ODOT and TVFR ignored the possibility that a fire on this hillside could ignite house fires as far away as Horton Road due to flying embers? (West Linn, city of trees, has abundant fuel in its citizens’ landscaping; see arbor vitae.)</p> <p>Why has ODOT not maintained the hillside, allowing non-native species many of which are fire prone, ex. scotch broom, pines, cedars, etc., since its acquisition over 40 years ago?</p> <p>Why did ODOT not address the 2003 fire caused by an ODOT employee and how to prevent this type of ignition in the future, acknowledging that a power plant requires more people on the hillside?</p> <p>Why has ODOT not addressed the fact that, during daylight hours, the panels will be charged with 600 volts per inverter and thus a danger to anyone fighting a fire in their vicinity?</p> <p>What has ODOT done to ensure its proposed industrial power plant does not violate objectives of the Clackamas County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CCWPP)?</p> <p>Why has the city of West Linn ignored all these same issues, especially related to its proposed trail? Will the city, as the entity responsible for planning within its limits, require ODOT to address them?</p> <p>Given the financial unsoundness (per ODOT, >100 years to payback) of this industrial scale power plant in this time of the state’s fiscal troubles why spend taxpayers money on such an unnecessary and possibly dangerous endeavor? (Even Gov. Kulongoski feels the state is spending too much.)</p> <p>ODOT Office of Innovative Partnerships and Alternative Funding - 355 Capitol St. NE Room 115 - Salem, OR 97301-3871</p>	<p>BHT Neighborhood citizen (comment #3)</p>



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EM13	<p>Number 1: It appears to me that not enough research has been done to the hill in question. How is ODOT going to guarantee that the hill is stable for this project.</p> <p>Number 2: I went to a meeting and a police officer commented on how area pathways are safe and free from crimes. How does he know what goes on unless he patrols them. I ran into three teenagers smoking pot on a pathway up between Barrington and Safeway and as they jumped out of the bushes, I was scared. If I wasn't a fairly big person, tall and strong, I may have been in danger. This Solar Project is in an area that was one of the biggest crime handouts in the state. What is to keep people out of the area at night and from smoking, dropping cigarettes and causing a fire. The first person injured and house threatened and this area will be irate and with this project. It should be placed in an unpopulated area of which there are many.</p> <p>Number 4: Why did ODOT not do a predictive / anticipatory hillside stability study?</p> <p>Number 5: Why did ODOT not insist on a more comprehensive analysis of a hillside with a recent history of large instability? (Has not CH2M Hill done multiple borings on this hillside?)</p> <p>Number 6: Why did ODOT not include or refer to West Linn's Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan that references this area's fragility?</p> <p>Number 7: "Why did ODOT not address the issue of stability in and after an earthquake given the multiple crustal faults in the immediate area? (See above Mitigation Plan)"</p> <p>Number 8: Finally, "given the financial unsoundness (per ODOT, >100 years to payback) of this power plant in this time of the state's fiscal troubles why spend taxpayers money on such an unnecessary and possibly dangerous endeavor? (Even Gov. Kulongoski feels the state is spending too much.)"</p> <p>Number 9: Has there been a study of the impact on the health of those who live here?</p>	West Linn citizen
EM14	<p>Please consider concerns of West Linn residents regarding the installation in our city of the gigantic solar highway system, which has been touted as "the largest in the world". I understand the financial ramifications for this system include a financial loss of 100 plus years to payback. I believe there are also zoning restrictions for that land. There are many reasons to fault this installation, but the most important to my family is the proximity to residential homes in the area. I understand there will be a trail installed fairly close to the panels and wonder about the wisdom of having persons walking so close to the panels and the magnitude of emissions which may affect walkers in that area. This seems a very costly financial and human life experiment to conduct so near a residential area. Please consider moving this installation to an area where people are not residing in such close proximity. We are alarmed!</p>	West Linn citizen
EM15	<p>I am a resident of West Linn and am concerned about the installation of the proposed solar highway in a residential area and within 200 feet of home sites. Can you tell me of other projects of this magnitude covering this area in similar residential communities in the country? or in the world?</p>	BHT Neighborhood citizen



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EM16	<p>Totally against the solar project and everything that goes with it. My good neighbors have pointed out a myriad of reasons it doesn't make sense.</p> <p>Stability of the hillside as clearing trees and construction begins is probably the number one concern for me. Followed closely by fire and crime hazards, disturbing wildlife, potential health threats, etc.....</p> <p>The state has many more problems it needs to focus on with it's time and money than a pie in the sky solar project.</p> <p>Please let's move on from this inane idea.</p>	BHT Neighborhood citizen
EM17	<p>As a resident of West Linn I have several concerns that 13,000 solar panels will be placed on a West Linn hillside that is in a slide risk area – 5 1/2 football fields worth of solar panels. If a solar panel has a life expectancy of 25-30 years and there is an agreement between ODOT and PGE for 25 years – what happens when the panels are useless? Who will pay to put new panels in to keep the green power going? Who will recycle the old panels and the dangerous chemicals they hold?</p>	BHT Neighborhood citizen



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EM18	<p>I studied the summary report and the Visual Resources report. Overall, I'm impressed but the planning process, communication process and the detailed information available. The quality of work is re-assuring that best effort is being made to strike a balance of interests and concerns at the infrastructure (highway and power), community and individual levels. Thank you for that. Please be certain that the outcome is aligned with the quality level observed in the planning.</p> <p>I do have two concerns: Regarding this excerpt from the Visual Report:</p> <p>Summary There is no question that the proposed solar array will have some impacts to local scenic conditions. However, the likely impacts are minor, the number of viewers small, and there are opportunities to reduce these impacts through attention to landscape design at the project margins.</p> <p>It's not apparent to me that the planning has been exhaustive to assure that the aesthetic impact will be minimized. A similar solar installation at the intersection of I5 and I205 is not an example of minimal impact to a continuous blend of natural and suburban appearance. The nearby Oregon City area already suffers from an industrial appearance. We don't need that spreading down I205. Significant efforts have been made to upgrade the appearances of commercial areas of nearby Old Willamette. We need to be certain we are not taking a step backwards. Please assure you are taking every opportunity to minimize impacts through landscape design and selection of fencing/containment construction and materials.</p> <p>There have been rumors of a visitors center and access to the facility from Salamo Road to the West. Neither are seen as necessary or desirable. I did not see reference to either in the reports. Figure 1 of the summary report indicates that access is only from I205S as is currently. Maintaining that same access is desirable and requested.</p> <p>In support of my neighbors bordering the project area, I'm sure they have great concerns. I would ask that you do everything possible to assure that their quality of life is not impacted by the construction period, or by the subsequent operation of the facility.</p> <p>ODOT Office of Innovative Partnerships and Alternative Funding - 355 Capitol St. NE Room 115 - Salem, OR 97301-3871</p>	<p>BHT Neighborhood citizen</p>



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EM20	<p>I am opposed to this project for two reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. It will increase the fire hazard for the neighboring residential homes, since the hillside above the project is dry in the summer and difficult to maintain.2. The total cost of the project exceeds the saving realized by all parties, since the payback period is longer than the life of the solar panels. <p>Please do not proceed with this project</p>	BHT Neighborhood citizen



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EM21	<p>After reviewing ODOT’s feasibility study one is struck with its superficiality. ODOT and the city of West Linn were given Virticus’ name, www.virticus.com. Virticus is a local company that sells software and sensors for existing street lights. Virticus estimates they can save ODOT roughly 30% of its electricity usage in 10,000 street lights for about 1/10 the cost of the solar power plant. Why does ODOT not consider electricity savings instead of generating it from a different source with no reduction in usage?</p> <p>Thus, this is just another example of the lack of concern for having a positive financial justification for a project funded by Oregon state taxpayers. Oregon will have at least a \$2 billion *deficit in the next biennium’s budget. This industrial power plant placed in residential neighborhoods will cost exactly 1% of this deficit to build and not have a positive return, ever. ODOT agrees it would take over 100 years to payback the cost of the plant using the energy savings they expect. See below.</p> <p>Here is a quick financial analysis based upon numbers provided by Mark Osborne, PGE’s Project Manager for the power plant. FINANCIAL IRRESPONSIBILITY Solar Highway — Industrial power plant in size and in financial negatives, next to homes.</p> <p>Facts from PGE’s lead person on the project: INDUSTRIAL SCALE: ~13,000-17,000 panels, PGE needs 360,000 sq ft/MW or 1,152,000 sq ft — 26.5 acres — 20.0 football fields, it is the “World’s Largest”, there are no others like it. Clearly an industrial power plant in the first residential setting in the world. Why is West Linn the test case?</p> <p>ELECTRICAL CAPACITY: DC rated output is ~3.2 MW in ideal conditions: if sun came up at high noon, stayed for 12 hours, perfect atmospheric conditions, every day of the year—EXPECTED USABLE CONVERTED AC OUTPUT IS ~640kWhr or ~20% of 3,200 kWhr/yr. [365 days of 8,767 Whr/day to get 3.2kWhr/yr] [@ 20% = 1,753 Whr/day to get 640 kWhr/yr]</p> <p>COST TO BUILD: ~\$20,000,000+ of Oregon taxpayers’ money.</p> <p>ELECTRICAL SAVINGS & PAYBACK: ODOT’S energy estimate is ~3,200* kWhr/year, using 6 cents/kWhr as average retail price “saves” ~\$192,000/yr — PAYBACK = \$20m/\$192k, ~104 YEARS. And, this assumes 100% capacity generation all year.</p> <p>EXAMPLE: If a streetlight is 400W and is on for 10 hours/day = 4000Whr or 4.0 kWhr/day so 640kWhr will power 160 ODOT street lights—FOR \$20,000,000+ of YOUR TAX DOLLARS (MOSTLY from Oregonians)!</p> <p>This is a feel-good demonstration project—it could be anywhere. Serious solar power is in Eastern Oregon. ODOT Office of Innovative Partnerships and Alternative Funding - 355 Capitol St. NE Room 115 - Salem, OR 97301-3871</p> <p>*REMEMBER our state is in dire financial straits:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>State Tax Revenue</td> <td>Unemployment Rate</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>% change ‘08 to ‘09</td> <td>% change ‘08 to ‘09</td> <td>Money Management Grade</td> </tr> </table>	State Tax Revenue	Unemployment Rate		% change ‘08 to ‘09	% change ‘08 to ‘09	Money Management Grade	<p>BHT Neighborhood citizen (comment #4)</p>
State Tax Revenue	Unemployment Rate							
% change ‘08 to ‘09	% change ‘08 to ‘09	Money Management Grade						



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EM22	<p>We are residents of the Barrington Heights area of West Linn who are very concerned about the proposed "Solar Highway" project.</p> <p>We feel there needs to be a much more complete study done to determine the long term effects of such a huge project on this hillside. Folks who believe that energy production from the sun is a panacea should study some of the very expensive projects that have been built in California, Arizona, and Florida (where there is abundant sunshine), and the cost/benefit ratio to the taxpayers.</p> <p>It is hard to imagine why the State of Oregon would even consider a project of this size and type, given the immensely long payback (many decades) and the sad state of the economy. This may feed the need Oregon seems to have to become the "Green Capitol" of the nation but, in terms of dollars and "sense" and return on investment, there are better ways for the State to spend money.</p> <p>I believe many people who reside in this area are also concerned about diminished property values due to possible "side effects", real or imagined, of having this huge generating project in their back yard. And finally, there appears to be zero benefit to West Linn. We would like to suggest that it is in ODOT's best interest to find another location to build this thing, away from crowded neighborhoods, if they are dead set on doing it.</p>	BHT Neighborhood citizen



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EM23	<p>After reviewing ODOT’s feasibility study one is struck with its superficiality. Another example is the lack of a comprehensive environmental analysis. In fact, ODOT says it will ask the Federal Highway Administration for a Categorical Exclusion specifically so it won’t have to do either an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or an Environmental Assessment (EA).</p> <p>ODOT knows that over the last 14 years a locally recognized PhD Biologist has tracked 9 Federal and State sensitive vertebrate species living on this hillside out of over 100 vertebrates living on this land. ODOT also wants to eliminate four wetlands that nurture these species. In addition, these acres form the central, and largest, portion of a set of three connected habitats including Savannah Oaks and Camassia Park. Thus, ODOT should go through a full EIS or EA, not ask the FHWA for a CE.</p> <p>Why would ODOT ignore sensitive lands and species?</p> <p>Why did ODOT not do an on-site, cross all seasons environmental study of this land?</p> <p>Much of this wildland is zoned R-10 so ODOT must ask the city for approval of its project, ex., get a variance to build an industrial power plant on land zoned for residential use. The city should require the same full environmental assessment that must be done for the trail it wants to build here. [This ignores the issue of ODOT violating its charter to expend monies only on projects directly related to transportation—an industrial power plant is not transportation.]</p> <p>Given the financial unsoundness (per ODOT, >100 years to payback) of this industrial power plant in this time of the state’s fiscal troubles why spend taxpayers money on such an unnecessary and possibly dangerous endeavor? (Even Gov. Kulongoski feels the state is spending too much.)</p>	<p>BHT Neighborhood citizen (comment #5)</p>



Comments – West Linn Solar Project Site Feasibility

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#	Contact Summary	Comment from
EM24	<p>Although we are not resident of West Linn we do live across the river on Canemah Bluff and will have a direct view of the project from morning till night. Already we have reflections from windows in the heights and from the cars on I-205. You can not prove to us that the project will not reflect and be an irritation-without a recourse in our favor. We don't feel there has been enough study for the safety from bad electricity to build a project of that size in a high density residential area.</p> <p>Our Other concerns are: Fire Hazards, we've seen fires on that hill(are the panels fireproof). The cutting of 100's of trees that are good for the environment. Landslides..they had one already. The Cost: Doesn't balance out for a 20 year project plan. At the end of that time then what-who removes the panels and restores the property to it's original appearance trees and all. Besides who can guarantee the panel company will still be in business. This reminds us of another wonderful invention called ASBESTOS who knew the hazards in that. It is our opinion a project of this magnitude does not belong in a residential area.</p> <p>By the way the pictures you are using to promote your project were taken from our back yard so this whole thing is a big concern to us and our neighbors on Amanda Court. We would welcome a visit from your committee to understand our concerns.</p>	Oregon City citizen
EM25	Regarding the proposed Solar project in West Linn. I believe we need more information regarding this subject. As of right now, we are against the project.	Address not provided - citizen
USM2	I'm writing in opposition to the installation of the solar panels by the State at the West Linn/I205 area. The State installed solar panels at the I-5/205 junction previously and it has been reported that it will take approximately 30 years for us to break even on the costs. The State of Oregon is frivolously spending our tax dollars on these projects. This State is in financial peril and should be tightening it's belt and only fund absolutely necessary projects – solar panels hardly qualify as a desperate need. Currently, us citizens of Clackamas and Multnomah counties are targeted to pay an additional tax to repair the Sellwood bridge. I think instead of foolishly spending money on solar panels, how about putting the money towards repairing the Sellwood bridge and give us cash strapped citizens a break and stop taxing us into oblivion.	Happy Valley citizen



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	<p>My concerns are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Fire safety (2) Public safety (3) Environmental safety including habitat harm, wetlands, animal and plant life, slide area, and earthquake hazard (4) Land use: Industrial use in R10 residential area (5) Reflection (6) Historical area (7) Financial soundness (8) Trail (9) Constitutional problem <p>Fire Safety: There are southerly winds during the summer that blow down the Willamette River and come right up the bluff on this site. This adds to "chimney effect" if a fire occurs there. The situation becomes very dangerous with the residential area right at the top of the bluff. There is no easy way to fight a fire on this site. There is no access except through residential yards to fight a fire. Essentially the first line of defense against the fire spreading is the street with its fire hydrants that lies beyond the first row of houses. Besides all of this, ODOT has not maintained the site. Several wild plant species that are prone to the spread of fire have established themselves such as "scotch broom". There have been two fires of dangerous consequence on this hillside. The first was on site and caused by an ODOT worker. It proceeded up the bluff right near the residences. The second was further downstream but on the same hillside. A PGE high tension line was broken. As it hit the ground it started several fires that were spreading up the hill out of control. This is a dangerous location without hydrants, sprinklers and better access.</p> <p>Public Safety: The history of this proposed site has a long and sordid history. The rest stop area was close to residences but not visible to the passing public. What ensued was a prostitution center on ODOT land right in the backyards of those residences. I am concerned that this lackadaisical attitude about protecting the public will allow further problems. With an industrial power plant on their property along with an easily accessible trail these are circumstances waiting for another disastrous criminal incident. Law enforcement would have a difficult time protecting this area, and at additional unneeded expense.</p> <p>Environmental Safety: The West Linn site for an industrial power plant by ODOT and PGE is the home of over 100 vertebrates. Nine of those are federal and state sensitive species. The project would also eliminate the wetlands that feed these species. This site is also the middle of the natural habitat of savannah oaks and camassia park. Developing this site would seriously damage the wildlife habitats so dearly cherished by the people of this area. A full environmental study must be done. This area is a known slide area. ODOT bought the property originally to protect I-205. Besides that, OGAMI has identified it as a hazardous area in case of an earthquake. This is further evidence of the need for a full environmental study.</p>	



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#	Contact Summary	Comment from
EM27	<p>My main concern has always been the sun's reflection towards the people who live along the bluff top in Oregon City. As the sun sets at different times of the year in the West, it will reflect off the solar panels towards us at an ever changing angle. At sometimes during the sunset throughout the year we will get direct sunlight reflection in our windows and outdoor patio areas. We will be receiving direct sunlight as well as reflected sunlight.</p> <p>At one of the public meetings I took a Laser Pointer Pen and directed it at your solar panel exhibit and the laser's reflection easily showed up on the ceiling of the meeting room.</p> <p>We look slightly Southwest towards the proposed Solar Site.</p>	Oregon City citizen
EM28	<p>For so many reasons, I am against placing a solar project of this size in a populated area. Projects like this one belong in more rural areas. I continue to have concerns about health, safety, fire, crime, glare, animals that depend on this area and the wetland -100 vertebrates-9 Federal and State sensitive vertebrate species, placing the solar panels in a high probability slide zone, taking 20 million tax dollars away from schools and other services, the payback of 100 years on the 20 million dollars, the nasty chemicals in the panels, who is going to clean them up, what will be released in the air, environment and wash into the river if they break or are compromised, how will this large industrial power plant next to neighborhoods effect our health in the future, property values, views, the bypassing of proper Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Assessment, the proper drainage from that site when it is already a problem area flooding the highway and area even before you cut 300 trees and install all of those flat surfaces to shoot rainwater quickly down that hillside, and for so many other reasons I am opposed to this project at this location.</p>	Oregon City citizen



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#	Contact Summary	Comment from
EM29	<p>Now is not the time to build a solar highway project and associated trail. The land north of I-205 just east of the 10th Street exit is not an appropriate location for this proposed power plant. The open house ODOT held on March 30 to present its studies of the land was a disappointment. Attendees expected to be able to look at the studies and ask questions of those who conducted those studies. The study reports were not available making meaningful dialogue difficult. Those asking for the studies were told they could be found online and that the studies weren't printed to be distributed in an effort to conserve paper. Colorful displays on easels staffed by various ODOT employees and contractors filled the room, but none of the studies were available. Only an ODOT summary of some of the studies was available.</p> <p>West Linn citizens have repeatedly asked ODOT to conduct a study of the land to determine what fire hazards exist on the land and how those hazards can be mitigated. When asked for a copy of such a study, only a September 18, 2009 letter of opinion from Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue could be produced. When asked where the October 1, 2009 TVFR letter that was shared with the Solar Project Managers, the representatives were unaware of it. This second letter stated that TVFR is not in possession of a map of the area and that they have not conducted a survey of plant species and their flammability. It goes on to say that TVFR has no standing to impose a maintenance plan or irrigation requirements. The bottom line is that THERE HAS BEEN NO FIRE STUDY DONE.</p> <p>The topography of this land and the highly flammable plant life growing on the steep slopes couple to present very real, very serious fire hazards to the community of West Linn. The possibility of an Oakland Hills type inferno is of great concern. Any structure within two miles is at risk should a fire break out on this land. Flying embers entering vents, landing on wood shake roofs, or landing on debris in gutters could threaten hundreds of homes. In this area, most fires are human caused. If you introduce humans (on a trail or power installation) to this particularly fire vulnerable land the consequences could be dire.</p> <p>Until a true and thorough study of the land is conducted, there remains serious concern and doubt as to whether this project is appropriate in this residential area.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>	BHT Neighborhood citizen