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Chase Pederson
Kittitas County
Chase.pedersen@co.kittitas.wa.us

Dear Chase,

My Citizen Comments regarding CU-24-00003 Schnebly Coulee Solar Farm:

My partner and I purchased a Sage Hills Residence in August of last year to make a lifestyle change and realize a dream of living in the country. My Brother, Mother, and Father recently passed away and prompted the needed change, so we sold our city home and spent thousands relocating 20 minutes outside of Ellensburg to live in a rural environment. We happily agreed to the requirement to leave-untouched 17 of our newly purchased 20 acres to preserve the critical shrub steppe and wildlife habitat in the area. A week after moving into our new home our neighbors told us about the Poison Springs property being leased to a power company with the intention of installing a massive solar farm. I cried when I found out and have been worried sick about losing my lifestyle, investment, and health due to potentially living so close to a massive solar farm.

I understand that I do not own or control all the property around my new home, but I don't think anyone would reasonably expect that this rural property would be surrounded by a solar mega-farm on the West, South, and North sides of the home. I certainly did not move here to live in an industrial setting. This is such a horrible thing to do to someone.

All my money is invested in this home. I read conflicting studies on how much solar farms decrease the value of the surrounding properties, but I haven't met anyone who is happy for me at the prospect of living so close to a solar farm. None of my neighbors are happy to live next to a solar farm. My friends shake their heads in disbelief at my predicament and tell me they are sorry. Common sense tells me that people don't want to live next to solar farms so how can that not affect the value of my property? It certainly will.

A further concern stems from my research on how safe it is to live next to a solar farm. It seems that there are no agreed upon distances and worldwide the standard varies from 3 kilometers (1.8 miles according to the World Health Organization: WHO) to 500M (546 yards / .3 miles). My home will now sit 400 yards from the proposed site. I don't feel safe living here if this farm is approved. If I try to sell the home any prospective buyer will do the same research and not want to buy the home. What buyer would want to purchase the home through the disruption, dust, and noise of construction alone? I am now stuck here through no fault of my own.

As I look out across thousands upon thousands of acres of land in Kittitas County where a solar farm would not impact any homes, I can't understand why a mega-farm would need to be shoehorned into the area directly adjacent to me and my neighbors' homes. I support alternative energy but thought needs to be put into the siting so not to unfairly impact unsuspecting residents. I pray that the County protects us from this atrocity. Please deny.

Stephanie Stump