

Dear IUB members,

I have read and reread all of the objections and responses to recent IUB filings regarding utility scale solar facilities and most recently your INU-2021-0001 request for comments. Here's the thing. Those of us that live in a rural residential area object to becoming an industrial area. Make no mistake about it, millions of solar panels do not a farm make. While farmers have every right to determine usage of their property there is no way for non-participating neighbors to foresee that anywhere down the line their line of sight would be covered in millions of solar panels. An overlay zoning code is just not sufficient. Let's call it what it is; an industrial park. An industrial park surrounded by 6-foot chain link topped with barbed wire next door will most certainly affect our property values. The local real estate agents tell us buyers are already hesitant to even look in our area pending the final outcome of the proposed but not yet filed solar facilities.

As to all of the leased land being voluntary, that may be legally true. However, we would question the definition of moral or ethically based off of some of the unrelenting pressure applied to some of the neighbors who are on all levels of the age and economic spectrum including one owner who was in hospice and died less than a week after signing. But this is a conversation for a different time and place.

The national, state, and local renewable goals set for Iowa may change voluntary land leases in the near future. The Iowa Environmental Council's Road to 100% Renewable goals to be power exporters would have Iowa producing 1100GW of solar and 1600GW of wind power (per the last page of this document). The land required to do that based on their current configuration estimates is at least 10,000 square miles. Almost 20% of our land mass. I am guessing at some point land use will not be voluntary.

ITC in their response to INU-2021-001 says the transmission line easements are also voluntary 98% percent of the time. That means 2% of the transmission line land needed is taken via eminent domain. I have not added up the total number of miles needed to connect all of the proposed renewable generation but 2% of it would still be a large number. I firmly believe that when Iowa pushes for 100% renewable in mostly wind and solar that 2% number will dramatically increase. The spiderweb of transmission lines referred to in INU-2021-0001 will continue to grow as more renewables are connected to the grid.

I no longer believe most of what the developers tell me. Why? Because I feel lied to. Nextera, Envenergy, and Clenera appear to be sneaking around trying to get enough signatures on leases from land owners with confidentiality clauses attached. Why would they need confidentiality clauses if what they were planning was above board?

In the case of NEE and DAEC solar, Kimberly Dickey, former Chairperson of the Linn County Planning and Zoning Commission and now Nextera Project Manager said at the meeting held in June that this idea came to them three weeks after the derecho of 2020. Nextera has been planning this since 2014 according to the Army Corps of Engineer requests. Land owners in our area have been approached about lease options since 2018. Why would we believe anything else they have to say that this is good for the economy, schools, climate or anything else? When you start with a lie the rest is not worth listening to.

Developers counter our questions with studies purchased by the solar industry or tell us they will get back to us, in writing, but never do. We submitted questions in writing (for their convenience) to NEE in June as follow up to the community meeting. They said they would get back to us in 2 weeks after the questions were submitted. It is August and we are still waiting. To date only 2 questions have been answered. It does not take us long to find independent studies that say just the opposite of what NEE is saying. We are brushed off like flies. Who should we believe?

The recent transmission filings from developers and transmission owners in response to your investigation appear to brush the IUB questions and concerns off as well. They all claim Iowa's future in wind and solar has been predetermined and set in code. Iowa will become a leading exporter of power using wind and solar. I am still waiting for someone to convince me 100% renewable on 20% of our land mass and yet we will still not have reliable power is the best thing for Iowa and not just the shareholders of the companies who are building these extensive infrastructures in our state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Laura Myres