

CINDY MILLER #1  
10/30/18

- 3) As a condition of issuance of a Zoning Certificate authorizing the construction of the Solar Farm, Applicant shall submit to the Ogle County Planning & Zoning Department an estimate of decommissioning costs prepared by a qualified engineer. Ogle County may, at Applicant's expense, hire it's own qualified consultant to verify the accuracy of Applicant's estimate of decommissioning costs.
- 4) To ensure the full completion of decommissioning requirements, and/or to facilitate the mitigation and abatement of public nuisances or health hazards caused by debris or hazardous materials occurring in the event of partial or complete destruction of the solar farm by natural or man-made causes, the solar farm owner and/or operator shall obtain and deliver to the County of Ogle ("County") a ~~letter of credit or performance bond~~; or similar financial assurance; in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to the County, securing the solar farm owner and/or operator obligation to remove the solar farm ("Decommissioning Security").

The Decommissioning Security shall be equal to or greater than the estimated amount by which the cost of decommissioning the solar farm ~~exceeds the salvage value of the solar farm~~. By its terms, the Decommissioning Security shall survive the bankruptcy or dissolution of the owner and/or operator of the solar farm or other termination of the owner and/or operator of the solar farm's existence or its legal obligations. Once it is in place, the owner and/or operator of the solar farm shall maintain the Decommissioning Security, and cause the Decommissioning Security to be valid and enforceable until the secured decommissioning obligations are satisfied.

When any of the identified decommissioning triggers exist, if the owner and/or operator of the solar farm has not complied with its decommissioning and related obligations, the County shall be entitled to make a claim against the Decommissioning Security for its costs to decommission the solar farm, net of any salvage value the County actually realizes.

Decommissioning costs shall be re-valuated once every five (5) years from the date of substantial completion of the solar farm to ensure sufficient funds for decommissioning and, if the parties agree at that time that the decommissioning costs need to be modified, the amount of the Decommissioning Security shall be adjusted accordingly.

CINDY MILLER #2  
10/30/18

**4 Megawatt Solar Plant Costs, Salvage and Decommissioning**

Initial Cost \$11 million  
Materials 60% of project cost = \$6.6 million  
Installation labor 40% of project cost = \$4.4 million  
Salvage value \$5.25 (stated about 80% of original value)  
Proposed decommissioning security fund \$80,000

<i>Salvage value</i>	\$5,250.000
<i>Decommissioning security fund</i>	<u>\$80.000</u>
Total projected decommissioning cost	<b>\$5,330,000</b>

**3 sights have already been approved by the county board, 26 Megawatts?**

If it is 26 megawatts at 5,330,000 per 4 megawatts potential liability to the county could exceed \$34.5 million dollars to date.

CINDY MILLER #3  
10/30/18

Energy Sage 888-838-4638

### **U.S. solar panel manufacturers (2018)**

- Heliene – Mountain Iron, MN (U.S. manufacturing facility)
- Itek Energy – Bellingham, WA
- Mission Solar – San Antonio, TX
- Seraphim – Jackson, MS (U.S. headquarters)
- Solaria – Fremont, CA (U.S. headquarters)
- SolarTech Universal – Riviera Beach, FL
- SolarWorld Americas – Hillsboro, OR
- Suniva – Norcross, GA
- SunSpark – Riverside, CA
- Tesla/Panasonic – Buffalo, NY (U.S. manufacturing facility)

CINDY MILLER #4  
10/30/18

- My first point is in regards to a line taken directly from the current Ogle County Solar Farm Special Use Conditions I quote;

“The Decommissioning Security shall be equal to or greater than the estimated amount by which the cost of decommissioning the solar farm exceeds the salvage value of the solar farm. “

Without having the minutes available from last Thursdays testimony at the ZBA hearing on proposal # 19-18 special use, I may not be exactly accurate from my notes, but I should be close. During that hearing Gordon Simanton the representative for Solarstone Illinois testified about the cost of their proposed 4 mega watt solar plant; he stated the cost would be approximately \$11 million dollars with materials being 60% of this, which I calculated to be \$6.6 million dollars. He also testified that their expected salvage value for the solar panels at the end of their 35 year lease is projected to be \$5.25 million. He stated this is based on the panels retaining 80% of their function at that time. Extrapolating from these points tells me that the true decommissioning cost is over \$5.3 million dollars as the decommissioning security being offered is \$20.000 per mega watt above salvage value. I would like to point out how technology has changed just in the past 20 years, look at the fact that 20 years ago a bag phone was modern and today they have phones the size of a watch. Do we really believe that in 35 years these panels will have this level of value? The way technology evolves in our country new panels at that time will most likely be significantly smaller and cheaper. My concern is after the leases for these plants end, the LLC will walk away leaving worthless panels behind that will require over \$5.3 million dollars to decommission one plant. I know at a prior Adhoc meeting a comment was made about it being unreasonable to ask the solar companies to fund decommissioning security to a higher level therefore it was never brought to a vote, but I do not feel it is reasonable to place these very real possible costs on the citizens of our county. If they have a true confidence in the salvage value of the panels how is it unreasonable? Therefore I hope that there will be a vote on this point.

- Second in the same hearing testimony was given in regards to panel wind sustainability being 75-80 miles per hour. We often have straight line winds exceeding that level. I would think as we are a tornado alley it is not unreasonable to expect panels to have a wind sustainability matching Florida's 160 mph requirement, at the minimum.
- Third the testimony was given that the panels being proposed were manufactured in China so there was no specific data in regards to amount of chemicals used, or the manufacturing process. Having so many products being recalled in this country that were manufactured in China due to unsafe practices, which by the way I personally encountered with a recall of laminate flooring manufactured in china emitting unsafe levels of formaldehyde, wouldn't we want the panels used to be manufactured in the USA? We would not only feel confident about the manufacturing process and product being per EPA standards but we would also be promoting jobs in this county.
- Fourth at a different hearing the same night, testimony was given that the solar plants are only maintaining the area inside the fence. Currently farmers till, plant and harvest to the edges of the field, who will be maintaining the buffer zones? Will it still be worth the time and expense for a farmer to use these narrow strips of land?