

Hi, Jon and Casaria. Gregory and I were talking about what we have heard to date in the solar rulemaking advisory committee meetings, and we have a few thoughts. I hope this is the correct way to submit our comments.

1. This may be a "bookkeeping" matter, but it seems like the latest draft of proposed rules has not specifically stated that these rules pertain only to commercial wind farms.
2. Based on recent media reports such as the one in the September, 2010 "Ruralite" for Central Electric Co-op, public utilities are increasingly building solar farms. Should this be addressed in the rules? Aren't they commercial, in a way? This should be addressed in the definition of commercial.
3. Based on the focus of this rulemaking on ag lands, as CIAC members we would like to see an extended notification rule apply to solar farm proposals. We see frequent cases of neighbors not being notified in other types of land use proposals when the notification rules do not make sense in rural areas, due to the small distance. In rural (agricultural?) areas, much larger distances for notification would include more neighbors.
4. We believe an additional clause should be added to encourage/allow heightened citizen participation for solar farm proposals near "special areas" such as parks and unique scenic destinations.

Thanks for your consideration of our concerns.