

From: [Shambarger, Erick](#)
To: [Hittman, Elizabeth](#)
Subject: FW: Airport Solar Project on City Landfill
Date: Thursday, February 20, 2020 9:19:05 AM

[Please add to the solar file](#)

From: dciepluch@att.net [mailto:dciepluch@att.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 9:06 AM
To: Bauman, Robert <rjbauma@milwaukee.gov>; Kovac, Nik <nkovac@milwaukee.gov>; Spiker, Scott <Scott.Spiker@milwaukee.gov>
Subject: Airport Solar Project on City Landfill

My opinion is that the City Council should approve the plan to allow We Energies to build a solar plant on Milwaukee old landfill that has a negative value. That land could sit for centuries and still have a negative value. Such is the fate of some brownfield sites. Similar to the former Milwaukee Road rail yard at the west end of the Valley that was paved over and turned into the State's largest parking lot that is used less than 1% of the year. It has a few feet of oil standing on the groundwater of the Valley. Cudahy and Milwaukee County own the two landfills off Layton and Pennsylvania just east of the airport and have had them for sale for years – and it seems no one is stupid enough to buy them.

You do need to keep two things separate. We as consumers are on the demand side of the energy equation. We Energies is on the supply side. As consumers when we produce energy, or install energy efficiency, we lessen demand and cut into monopoly control over us as consumers. CEOs do not get promoted for downsizing their monopoly control. The PSC has strengthened monopoly control over the past 10-years.

Milwaukee stands to gain over \$90,000 annually in lease payments that could be used for other projects on its own buildings to increase efficiency and add solar implements and further save annual energy costs. The City should look at the end terms of the lease. You may want to be in a position to take over the interconnection and add your own solar expansion on the property should the PSC rules change more in the favor of the consumers.

I have read the Barnett report on this project. He has an excellent

background in renewables and tariffs. I am not sure what he means on alternative tariffs. We Energies has had a compliant Public Service Commission for the past 10-years and carved out a strategic path on rules approved by the Commission that are obstacles to consumers for installing solar projects. They received Commission approval over the past 10-years to fatten the fixed monthly meter charge, and flatten the time of use rates, and made it more difficult for consumers to sell back to the utility from renewable projects. The new Commission Chair is a former attorney that worked at We Energies for most of her career. We should not expect the tariffs to change for a period of years.

Wisconsin as a State missed the boat on renewables starting in 2010 when it turned its back on renewables and energy efficiency. WI produces less than 5% of its energy from renewables while states to the west of us produce 25% and sell back into WI as low cost producers. In 2010, WI was a top 10 state on energy efficiency and renewable, today it is 25 as rated by ACEEE. We Energies spent close to \$4 Billion on fossil power plants from 2007-15, and the Pleasant Prairie Plant was shut down during 2018, decades early, and the new Elm Road Plant in Oak Creek often runs below capacity. As consumers we are stuck paying for these decisions for decades to come and approved by the WPSC in our rate structure.

I retired from We Energies in 2010 as their energy efficiency expert. And yes We Energies is a monopoly that wants to maintain its control on supply and price. Consumer owned energy efficiency, solar, and thermal mass storage are competitive advantages that we can take on and often have returns of 10-50% depending on the project. When consumers take energy generation and energy efficiency into their buildings, it reduces their energy payments to the utility. CEO's and energy companies in general hate an educated consumer that cuts into their monopoly.

Take the money now. The City can still perform their own solar and energy efficiency projects and cut into your energy bills that will benefit the citizens of Milwaukee. It is unknown how long the political climate will remain in We Energies' favor and a compliant WPSC that has all but forgotten about consumers, and in the past ten years has done more to

protect the monopoly than during my 35 years working for the utility. In my urban planning classes decades ago, politics was always the monkey wrench.

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