

Joe Urban

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Subject: Louisa County Solar Environmental Damage & Pending Waller Solar Project

To: Lancaster County Virginia Board of Supervisor
 From: Joe Urban 265 oak Point Dr - District 2
 Date: October 6, 2021

Subject: Catastrophic Environmental Damage Likely from proposed Waller Solar Project - Louisa County Experience with the Belcher 88MW project foreshadows it can happen here.

Recent investigative reporting by WTVR CBS Channel 6 has highlighted continuing and catastrophic damage from a large scale industrial farm in Louisa that is similar in scope to the proposed Waller Project in Lancaster County.

https://www.thecentralvirginian.com/news/dominion-apologizes-for-solar-runoff/article_db39d65c-c965-11eb-8f8c-e3ac9691fc3f.html
<https://www.wtvr.com/news/problem-solvers/problem-solvers-investigations/virginia-farmers-and-dominion-energy>

The key takeaways from this project are:

1. The Louisa BOS regrets approving the project and stated they will now allow clear cutting of 1,000 acres again.
2. Both Dominion and their contractors admit that the project and its water/erosion controls work as engineered, meet specifications but cannot prevent the damage occurring.
3. No after the fact solutions will restore filled streams, eroded hillside in forests etc.

I am asking that the Lancaster BOS not allow this to happen here. There is simply no way to control runoff from large scale cleared hilly and sandy soils. Existing standards do not reflect today's extreme rain events. Yesterday, October 5th my rain gauge on the Eastern Branch of the Corrotoman registered 3 inches in 35 minutes. Imagine all of that water running off the panels, down the ground and into our watersheds. That amounted to 81 million gallons of water over 1,000 acres.

No solar facilities should be approved in Lancaster County unless they are on level lands. Clear cutting should be restricted in area and additional areas should only be cleared once it has been shown that all mitigation methods are in place. Even on level lands projects should be engineered to that there is no increase in runoff to any adjacent areas compared to the original state of the land.

Only American made panels should be used. Any payments to the county by developers are in effect taxes on Dominion's ratepayers and just a pass through in our electric rates with Dominion's guaranteed profits added. Please contact the Louisa BOS, visit with the adjacent farmers to the Belcher site and not allow those mistakes to be repeated here.

Respectfully submitted,
 Joe Urban