

Dear Ms. Wald and Mr. Zichella:

I have had the opportunity to review:

Draft Report

B & V Project 149148.0100

Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative Phase 1A

I have also reviewed the bv.com web site to study the qualifications and skill areas of Black & Veatch, the apparent prime contractor for this report as well as the subsequent phases still to come. Due to time constraints these opinions are my personal opinions and not those of any organization with which I am affiliated.

These are my comments:

- Black & Veatch is an engineering company with strong skills in mechanical engineering of complex processes to provide for the production of facilities for alternative energy. The company has no demonstrated proficiency, and this draft report bears that out, in dealing with:
 - a. Environmental effects of projects on large scale ecosystems
 - b. The economic effects of such projects on local and regional economies,
 - c. The regional effects on climate, and
 - d. the health effects of large regional projects as appear to be planned in the above report (these health effects include direct disease spreading effects, particularly from effects on climate, as well as societal psychological losses due to the loss of the “wilderness effect” which is now being recognized as an important problem throughout the world)

- The environmental parameters contained throughout the report are seriously deficient from a public policy standpoint. There is no provision made for the study and input of ecosystem effects on the Mojave Desert and the Great Basin, or for that matter in other areas where these projects are planned. I am aware of environmental constraint layers maps developed by the Center for Biological Diversity. The CBD's focus on public policy issues over the entire eco region of such alternative energy projects must be considered. In essence - ecological engineering on a regional basis must be done.
- The archaeology of sensitive sites appears to play no role in considerations in the report. This is a serious defect.
- The effects on existing regional business interests is apparently not an issue to be considered in the report. What will happen to the tourism potential of the region when these large projects are implemented. What is the potential for siting these facilities, or alternative energy processes in already disturbed areas such as cities, dumps, open pit mines, etc. This failure is a major oversight which affects many people.

I urge you to include eco system engineering, archaeology, climate, tourism, and regional and local business effects as important public policy considerations to be analyzed.

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