

November 5, 2023

Patrick County Board of Supervisors
106 Rucker Street
Stuart, Virginia 24171

Re: Utility Scale Solar Panel installations in Patrick County.

Dear Supervisors,

I want to thank each and every one of you and staff for your kind and attentive considerations on the matter of utility scale photovoltaic panel installations within the territorial limits of Patrick County. Like many of our citizenry, I too became concerned with the proposed submissions upon learning that the installation utilized thin film panel construction containing Cadmium Telluride.

Please consider in your deliberations the below Department of Energy's article with links in addition to the previously submitted materials by the writer and other concerned citizens. No matter what **verbal assurances** are made to Patrick County by commercial interests, the hard data and chemical manufacturer's Safety Data Sheets provide the definitive statements of Cadmium Telluride's hazards.

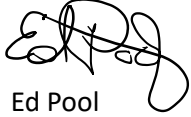
*May 4, 2023 – Keeping Solar in the Field by Keeping Water Out by Dr. Lenny Tinker program manager for the photovoltaics team Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy - [Keeping Solar in the Field by Keeping Water Out | Department of Energy](#) . The most important definitive statement from Dr. Tinker occurs in the first paragraph of the article. **"A solar module's trickiest foe? Water. Water can seep into a module through the tiny seal around its edges and reduce its efficiency and durability, but creating a solar module that stays perfectly sealed for its entire lifetime is impractical."***

From this writer's perspective, I believe Dr. Tinker's statement is a soft way of stating that at present the technology is a work in process and presently does not provide Patrick County the protections nor assurances necessary to preserve human health and aquatic species preservation. Further, should accidents occur from Acts of God or other types of failure, the county would be hard pressed to litigate and recover any damages. At the end of the day the Safety Data Sheets (SDS) from the chemical producers (previously provided) is definitive about the dangers and could be determined by a court of law as "fair warning." The SDS sheets combined with the U.S. Department of Energy's own published articles such as Dr. Tinker's will place all failures and liabilities clearly upon us all – The Good People of Patrick County. Heaven help us all should a toxic event occur that effects water supplies both locally and the downstream water supplies of other municipalities and private supplies (ground water wells).

Therefore, at the discretion and good judgement of the Board of Supervisors, I submit for consideration that in lieu of looking at the present installation proposal "in isolate" and future industrial proposals "in isolate" that will squander the resources and time constraints of our elected personnel, we consider working to adopt **a toxic or hazardous materials ordinance**. This consideration will require inputs from our existing industries as well as a deep dive into regulations and ordinances in existence from other regulatory bodies world-wide. In order to provide the time necessary might we consider a 6 month delay extendable by the board to 12 months (if deemed necessary by the BOS) to conduct the

necessary research and collect the necessary inputs from our business and industrial operators? The talent to conduct said research lies within the skills of our community and would greatly reduce the burden placed upon elected representatives and county resources. After all, it is the responsibility of the citizenry to participate and provide assistance to our governmental managers by collecting and providing the data necessary for elected officials to make well informed decisions. **We are all in this one together.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Pool', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ed Pool

CSHO, SHS

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/edward-pool-8506a610/>