

I wanted to give a statement on behalf of my constituent, Tom Newhart. Along with his wife, Carol, he owns and operates a 65-acre Historic Preserved Farm in Mt Joy Township, Adams County, for the past 35 years. In December 2019, Mt. Joy Township received a project plan from NextEra Energy to build a solar facility on 1,000 acres of leased land from 18 property owners on non-contiguous land, spread out across the Township on historic farmland that served an important role in the Civil War. The residents of Mt. Joy Township were in shock how this could be allowed to happen in such a historic community.

Decommissioning Costs

The existing ordinance in Mt. Joy township states that an industrial size solar power plant needs to put up a bond to cover decommissioning costs. But most municipalities do not require a bond.

NextEra Energy, in their Mt. Joy application, stated that they would put up a \$30,000 bond on a \$90 Million dollar project.

When questioned why this was so low, NextEra stated that they would pay for a consultant at decommissioning time to determine what was needed.

It is important to note that Solar panels can contain Cadmium, Chromium, Lead, Silver, Copper, and Arsenic and cannot be disposed in a landfill.

Conservative estimates to dispose of these hazardous panels in today's dollars would be \$100,000 per megawatt. A 75-megawatt facility would cost \$7.5 Million to dispose of 300,000 solar panels.

This cost is just to dispose of the panels and does not include the cost to restore the 1,000 acres of land to its original state. Solar Panels have a life of somewhere between 20 to 25 years.

Will the next company that takes over a project honor the commitment of the original developer?

Pennsylvania Residents are potentially stuck paying the bill and possibly a superfund site cleanup.

Therefore, it is imperative that a standard for proper bonding be made statewide to protect Pennsylvania residents from footing future bills.

SB 284 is certainly a step in the right direction, but I would like to see a potential addition to the bill that would require that bonds be continually evaluated every 5 years to keep pace with future inflation.

Additionally, I'd like to see the respective energy company overseeing a project to not be responsible for

solely evaluating the cost of recycling the solar panels after use. This should be done in coordination with a solar recycling company to ensure accuracy.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to future discussion on this bill.