

**Energy - Docket Optical System**

**From:** firstonfire@aol.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 31, 2013 8:11 AM  
**To:** Energy - Docket Optical System; jchilders@blm.gov  
**Cc:** firstonfire@aol.com; scdvainfo@gmail.com; sshteir@npca.org  
**Subject:** DRECP Draft Alternatives: Protecting the Silurian Valley [09-RENEW EO-01]

**Categories:** Ready to Docket

Dear Sirs,

Listed below are points of contention that relate to the Silurian Valley as a chosen place for renewable energy development. I have little doubt that your awareness to these points has been overlooked, My question is why your attention has not been diverted into the alternative suggestions that are available for primary consideration.

Besides the Silurian Valley, many easy to hit targets in the California Desert have fallen victim to the short sighted short game that utility scale developers are gleaning from the birthrights of our grandchildren. Financial short term profits vs. prudent long term investments collide on these precious ancient dry seabeds of our unique and important desert landscapes. The fact that the alternatives to desert destruction have not been exhausted and the conservation of energy has not been enforced is not reason to continue the gluttonous behavior that defines or appeases the appetite of a fading era in American waywardness.

There is no argument that something must be done as soon as possible to thwart the demons of catastrophe relating to climate change and irreparable damage to our Planet. Carbon must be contained and that must happen now! The future well being of our World is at stake and that is that! But, the California Deserts will not and cannot stop this! It will require much more and to hang our hats on the rack of hats aboard the Titanic is to hang our hats on failure!

Here's the deal. President Jimmy Carter stepped forward in the early eighty's and created mandates that were on target with words describing dire consequences if we did not act with haste and with proper response to the energy crisis. We then had President Regan reissue muscle cars, remove solar panels from the White House, and, generally, pulled a hood over the heads of everyone willing to let it happen so we could be the ostriches who like their heads stuck in the sand. And, now! Now, we look around and act like we are doing the right thing by jumping to the call of necessity and with that we re-woke having completely forgotten the baby in the overflowing bathtub. With panic, are we going to empty that tub with baby and all?

I can assure you, that the correct measures taken, though much more taxing and difficult, will bring the blessings of future historians. The actions made in true understanding of what is good for our local, regional, national and international communities will be points of judgement that will be entered into evidence in the court of common consideration. It must be said, there will be no appeal offered. The intelligent action that states our legislators mindsets will be transparent in short order, and the impacts will remain indelible! For this, time has come to open the discussion of broad reform and redemption of our need to build a proper future for humanity.

This is your job, and when you applied to be hired on, you knew that the public well being was your mandate. No-one said it would be an easy task to do your job, either. If you thought that was the case, I think you might have looked for a different job. Your job is far more important than you may realize and a note of encouragement is intended with my sincere hope you can achieve brilliance in creating a dynamic plan that considers points of contention raised by the Silurian Valley example of corporate designs for social solutions in meeting the demands that have been sitting in the halls waiting for proper attention.

DRECP can also stand for Do Renewable Energy Concepts Properly and that means do them without wasteful haste, and harm. Bring the mindset of the public on board so conservation is considered and rewarded. Use lands and sites that are in the areas of need with swift efficient energy systems tailored to the situation and push invention of technology that will make current systems obsolete.

I am hopeful that you have the capacity to bring the best measures into reality and the court of popular opinion sees your genius and cleverness. Thinking outside the box for the benefit of all mankind!

Respectfully, Tom O'Key

PS.

- points brought to my attention and shared with you....

- The Bureau of Land Management and California Energy Commission should not allow energy development in the remote Silurian Valley, and should focus on encouraging the generation of clean energy on rooftops and on already-disturbed lands closer to our cities.
- Many of our pristine desert wildlands should be granted conservation status to maintain wildlife habitat connectivity and outdoor recreation options.
- The Silurian Valley should be designated as part of the National Landscape Conservation System, along with the other natural treasures of the Mojave Desert that provide intact habitat for wildlife and places for people to enjoy the outdoors.
- The mostly undisturbed Silurian Valley provides an important wildlife connectivity corridor between Death Valley National Park, the sky islands of the Kingston and Clark Mountains, the Soda and Avawatz ranges, and Mojave National Preserve to the South.
- The Silurian Valley is a scenic and natural escape for visitors to the desert, and it is rich in the history of human transportation across the Mojave desert, including the Old Spanish Trail and Native American cultural sites.
- The Silurian Valley has been acknowledged for its stunning scenery, with the second highest rating for visual resources under the BLM's visual resource management criteria, and the local community supports designating the two-lane road that crosses the area as a scenic highway.