

## Solar Update

On August 1, Hecate Energy submitted to the NYS Office of Renewable Energy Siting & Electric Transmission (ORES) its response to ORES' second Notice of Incomplete Application (NOIA) for its Shepherd's Run proposal to construct a 42- megawatt solar factory on prime farmland and wetlands in Craryville.

Hecate's response came little over a month after it received the second NOIA. It seems as though both Hecate and ORES are accelerating the speed of their communications exchanges. This is likely an effort to have a final permit issued to Hecate in time for it to receive generous renewable energy subsidies from the federal government, before the subsidies are withdrawn.

ORES and Hecate go back and forth on issues of relatively minor consequence, while ignoring the major concerns we have been raising for years: fire safety, compensation for adjacent homeowners, clear-cutting of forested areas, woefully inadequate screening, to name a few.

The Copake Town Board has been consistent in our objections that the proposed site is all wrong, as Shepherd's Run would be sited on prime agricultural land, would encroach on protected wetlands, and would be on land next to the Taconic Hills School campus. As I reported last month, the fact that Hecate needs ORES to override many of Copake's carefully developed zoning regulations to enable the developer to put its 215-acre eyesore along County Route 7 in the heart of beautiful Craryville farmland is proof-positive that the proposed Shepherd's Run site is a completely inappropriate location for a utility-scale solar installation.

Hecate's response to the second NOIA is being reviewed by our attorney for solar matters, Ben Wisniewski.

Richard Wolf  
Supervisor