

Name: Steven Siegel

Title: Environmental Artist

Organization: Steven Siegel

County: Dutchess

Comment: Dear NYSERDA, Please make a serious push towards Solar Power. I am fortunate enough in my work to travel to a lot of countries in this world, and I often come home wondering why we are so, so backward in many ways here in the U.S. Over the years I have watched Denmark and Germany move with a full throttle commitment towards wind and solar respectively. There is hardly a south facing barn roof in Germany now that does not have PV panels. Denmark, I believe, leads the world in wind power per capita. France, of course, had for years had the bulk of its electric power generated with nuclear, but that is another story. Suffice it to say that none of these countries gets as agitated as we do when the price of oil and gas skyrocket. I will let the experts make the economic argument for a Solar Power Plant in NY, but hope that you would consider the national security and environmental ones as well. It is a no brainer that oil is a dangerous substance to be dependent upon for any kind of power, given the places it comes from, but in the environmental community it is coal that is of the greatest concern. Because the US has abundant cheap coal, enough to last hundreds of years, we have already entered a future where the dirtiest of all fuels will continue to generate our electricity at greater and greater rates unless we are able to overcome psychological and educational barriers. Solar power is not competitive with coal only if one neglects the environmental costs in the calculations. I would urge you to read Al Gore's book from over 25 years ago. It is called Earth in the Balance. It demonstrates the kind of accounting that our public officials SHOULD be doing. Sincerely, Steven Siegel