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From: **Deanna Wheeler and Mike Ziebell** <potomaceyes@msn.com>

Date: Fri, Dec 21, 2018 at 4:05 PM

Subject: RE: MD Solar 1 LLC, Shugart Valley, Charles County - AI number 162822, permit tracking number is 201861760

To: ben.grumbles@maryland.gov <ben.grumbles@maryland.gov>

Cc: denise.keehner@maryland.gov <denise.keehner@maryland.gov>, jeffrey.thompson@maryland.gov <jeffrey.thompson@maryland.gov>

December 21, 2018

Ben Grumbles, Secretary,

Maryland Department of Environment,
1800 Washington Boulevard,
Baltimore, MD 21230
ben.grumbles@maryland.gov

**RE: MD Solar 1 LLC, Shugart Valley, Charles County
AI number 162822, permit tracking number is 201861760**

Dear Secretary Grumbles,

Nanjemoy-Potomac Environmental Coalition is writing to request the Maryland Department of Environment provide a public participation opportunity before MDE makes decisions for the Shugart Valley MD Solar 1 LLC solar power. This proposal would have a major impact on Nanjemoy and it has proceeded through an approval process that has involved very few people who live in Nanjemoy...most people did not know about this proposal and have not had an opportunity to share their information and opinion. Since there have been so few ways for the public to participate, the importance of an MDE sponsored water quality public hearing regarding the two Tier 2 streams increases in merit.

This proposal is proposed to be located in Nanjemoy which is the largest contiguous forest in Southern Maryland. The installation of 100,000 solar panels, that would function as impervious surfaces and would negatively impact the Tier 2 streams on the site. Loss of forest and introduction of impervious surfaces would increase the peak flows, the temperature and speed of the stormwater runoff and would have a negative impact on Wards Run, Nanajemy Creek, the Potomac River, and the Chesapeake Bay. Wards Run is presently a positive contributor to water quality in that system. The large clear-cut fragmentation would create significant forest habitat issues that would reach well beyond the boundaries of the project. Wards Run, a tributary of Nanjemoy Creek, is a positive contributor to the water quality and habitat protection of the

Nanjemoy dwarf wedge mussel population, the largest and best wedge mussel population in Maryland.

This project is inconsistent with our public vision for Nanjemoy...as documented in our long-term planning document...Nanjemoy Vision.

In closing, we request a hearing to give the public an opportunity to participate in this solar issue, a voice in planning genuine solutions to climate change. We are in support of solar energy and commend Georgetown University for their efforts to become sustainable. Solar power is an important element of our nation's future energy path, but this proposal, due to the unacceptable proposed location introduces a totally unnecessary controversy for solar's future. We do not need to set bad precedents that would cloud our mutual concern for addressing climate change.

Again, we urge MDE to hold a public water quality hearing on the MD Solar 1 LLC proposal in Shugart Valley. We are waiting for a response to a request by many environmental and energy groups for a meeting with Georgetown University to urge them to find a more suitable solar site.

Sincerely,

Deanna Wheeler, President of N-PEC. Inc.
1393 Liverpool Point Road
Nanjemoy, MD 20662
301-655-4859

cc: Jeff Thompson, Division Chief
Denise Keehner, Wetlands & Waterways Program