

Ms. Newsome discussed the Tree Survey – 9.6% of total acreage will be cleared. The Pecan Trees and some Pines were not addressed in the Tree Survey because the landowners plan to harvest. Restoration of the Trees per the Tree Survey are part of the decommissioning plan.

Ms. Newsome spoke that no permanent jobs would be created, but opportunities through Blue Ridge Power, their sister company through their Power Up Program will be available.

Ms. Newsome spoke about Economic Development. She stated the first year revenue for Brooks County would be \$600,000 and the rest being tax revenue. This income will total \$2.9 million over 40 years.

Ms. Newsome added that regarding the roads – PineGate is open to a Road Use Agreement to maintain and restore the roads to its previous condition after construction.

James Warren: How long Pine Gate has been in business? Response: Since 2014.

Tom Eggers: Standardized percentage of recyclable material and storage parameters? Response: Do not know the percentages, but the solar panel parts are recyclable.

Tom Eggers: How many Solar Farms do you have, specifically in western North Carolina? They have 1 GigaWatt across the US with 80 MegaWatt facilities across 26 states, so they have a lot of experience. The closest in Georgia is Elbert and Warren County. PineGate offered a site visit.

James Warren: Sister Company – Blue Ridge Power? PineGate acquired Blue Ridge Power from Horn Brothers Construction in 2021.

Ms. Newsome opened the floor to Jim Baxter, Senior Ecologist with Terracon to touch on the Wetland Impacts. He explained that PineGate had navigated their plan to avoid impacts to wetlands.

Ms. Pat Sharp opened for the public hearing for comments from the audience. The time limitation would be 2 minutes(no proxies). Please state name and address.