Key Concerns Regarding Tree Removal Violations and Solar Panel Lease Agreements

1. Tree Removal Violation and Ineffective Penalties

The first issue we must address is the violation related to unauthorized tree removal. The underlying reason is straightforward: **it is currently more cost-effective to pay the penalty than to follow the proper procedures.** This undermines environmental protections and sets a dangerous precedent.

Recommendation:
To make compliance the preferred choice, the penalties for violations must significantly exceed any cost savings gained by bypassing regulations. We propose increasing the fines to **two or three times the estimated savings** from non-compliance. This approach would serve as a true deterrent and reinforce the importance of environmental stewardship.

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2. Concerns About Solar Panel Lease Terms and Long-Term Land Use

Another critical consideration is the proposed lease for the solar panel installation. While solar panels are typically designed for a **30-year operational lifespan**, the current lease term is only **five years**, subject to renewal.

Key Questions:

- What are the full **cost implications** of installing, operating, and dismantling the system after only five years of use?
- Why are longer leases not being offered, especially when the technology supports a multi-decade lifespan?
- Is there a strategic intent behind the short lease term—such as using solar as a temporary land clearing measure, with the **true intent being future expansion of burial space**?

If the long-term intent is unrelated to sustainable energy use, we must critically evaluate the project's viability and motivations.

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3. Exploring Alternative, Cleaner, and More Sustainable Energy Sources

While solar energy is often considered a green solution, we must also examine **alternative technologies** that may offer more efficient and sustainable results. One such option is the new generation of **advanced nuclear power plants**, which present several benefits:

- Can be **built underground** for enhanced safety.
- Designed to **operate continuously for 20 years** with minimal intervention.
- Some models can **utilize nuclear waste** from older reactors, reducing overall nuclear waste stockpiles.
- Provide a **consistent and affordable energy supply**, unlike intermittent renewables.

This affordable energy could also support the **electrolysis of water to produce hydrogen**, enabling **hydrogen-powered vehicles** that emit only water vapor—an improvement over electric vehicles, which often shift emissions to the power generation source.

Conclusion

We must ensure that all decisions regarding energy infrastructure and land use are made with **long-term sustainability, environmental integrity, and community transparency** in mind. Strengthening regulatory enforcement, reevaluating short-term leases, and exploring next-generation energy technologies are critical steps in protecting both our natural resources and our future energy needs.