

ELIVINGSTON COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

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August 16, 2010

Blue Creek Wind Farm
Paulding and Van Wert Counties
Heartland Wind, LLC
Case No. 09-1006-EL-BGN

Ms. Renee Jenkins Administration/Docketing Ohio Power Siting Board 180 E. Board Street, 11th Floor Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793 Mr. Jim O'Dell
Energy & Environment Department
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Ladies and Gentlemen:

This letter is being written in response to an article in the August 11, 2010 online edition of the Van Wert, Ohio *Times Bulletin* regarding the proposed construction of the subject wind farm. The article stated that the Hoaglin Township Trustees had sent a letter to the Ohio Power Siting Board asking that Iberdrola Renewables be denied certification for wind farms in Van Wert County citing "not negotiating in good faith." Also included in the article were references to a site visit by township trustees to the Iberdrola Renewables' Streator Cayuga Ridge South Wind Farm in Livingston County, Illinois. While the trustees can form their own conclusions regarding the rehabilitation of county and township highways by Iberdrola in Livingston County, I am concerned that newspaper article and some of the township trustees misrepresented the August 3, 2010 meeting I had with the trustees and the Van Wert County Engineer.

At the meeting with the representative from Van Wert County I related a number of "lessons learned" anecdotes from Livingston County's first wind farm construction. My comments were centered on what items should be in a road use agreement that would best protect the local units of government. I also related that, from experience, I would do some things differently in future road use agreements. In no way did I intend for the meeting to be a "gripe session" about Iberdrola Renewables. On the contrary, I have always found Iberdrola and their associates to be professional in word and deed.

In order to clear the record on this department's working relationship with Iberdrola Renewables and their contractors I wish to state that we have enjoyed a positive working relationship with them from the initial road use agreement negotiations to the rehabilitation of highways that were damaged during construction. Communication with the company was extremely good varying from quick response to telephone and email messages during construction to the weekly coordination meetings held at the construction trailer to discuss that week's activities and to problem solve when issues arose. No construction project is without change orders and mid-course corrections. For every construction issue encountered there was a logical process with

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Iberdrola to resolve any conflict.

I am neither a proponent nor an opponent of wind energy conversion projects. My professional position as the steward of county highways is to provide a safe and reliable surface transportation network in the county. To that end, it is my opinion that Iberdrola Renewables operated in Livingston County with the utmost concern for cooperation with this department and the affected township road districts in Livingston County. While negotiations require a fair amount of "give and take," in my experience with all levels of the Iberdrola Renewables hierarchy they have performed their assign tasks with honesty, professionalism, safety and integrity.

Very truly yours,

David R. Winters County Engineer

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