



## Power Siting Board

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Ohio House of Representatives

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Ohio House of Representatives

Tom Sawyer  
Ohio Senate

August 23, 2010

Brian K. Brakebill  
Brian Brakebill Consulting, LLC  
6 Arbor Court  
Bloomington, IL 61704

Re: Heartland Wind LLC  
Electric Generating Wind Turbines / Van Wert and Paulding Counties  
Case No. 09-1066-EL-BGN

Dear Mr. Brakebill:

Thank you for contacting the Ohio Power Siting Board regarding Heartland Wind LLC's proposed installation of a wind turbine electric generating facility located in Van Wert and Paulding Counties, Ohio. The OPSB's mission is to support sound energy policies that provide for the installation of energy and transmission infrastructure for the benefit of the Ohio citizens, while promoting the state's economic interests and protecting the environment and land use.

In reviewing all particulars of the Heartland Wind LLC's application, both public and adjudicatory hearings, our Staff Report of Investigation, intervenors interrogatories, and the concerns of those residents living within the Van Wert and Paulding Counties and affected areas, the OPSB found that Heartland Wind LLC's application satisfied all of the criteria established in accordance with Chapter 4906, of the Ohio Administrative Code.

Therefore, on August 23, 2010 the Board issued an Opinion, Order and Certificate to Heartland Wind LLC for the siting, construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of the proposed wind-powered electric generation facility as modified pursuant to the opinion, order, and certificate.

To view the Opinion and Order for Heartland Wind LLC and all activity pertaining to this case, siting applications and /or rules governing the installation and operation of wind energy in Ohio, visit our website at [www.puc.state.oh.us](http://www.puc.state.oh.us) or the OPSB website at [www.OPSB.ohio.gov](http://www.OPSB.ohio.gov).

Again, the Board thanks you for your interest.

Very truly yours,

Kim Wissman, Executive Director  
Ohio Power Siting Board

KW: dgd

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180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

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www.OPSB.ohio.gov



09-1246-41-85N

6 Arbor Court  
Bloomington, IL 61704

309.838.2792

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**FILE**

**Ohio Power Siting Board  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, OH 43215**

**Case number: 09-1066-EL-BGN**

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**AUGUST 15, 2010**

For the past two years I have been employed in Illinois by a group of Livingston County Township road commissioners acting as their construction coordinator (CC) and liaison for Heartland Wind's (Iberdrola) Streator Cayuga Ridge Wind Farm project (SCR). As a person who has worked in and around the industry since 1977, including work as a civil engineering technician, street and sewer superintendent, director of public works and deputy city manager, I am qualified to provide you additional, and perhaps different, perspectives as you weigh facts and reality against fears and rumors during your deliberations about Iberdrola's current application.

All the turbines have been installed and township road restoration is over 95 percent complete and should be finished prior to September 1st; thus my experiences and observations are based on performances not promises. However, with regard to the township roads, Iberdrola's performance met or exceeded their promises. For example, I think the SCR project is one of the first to use ground penetrating radar as part of the post construction evaluation process. Because many of these roads were created long ago limited subsurface details were known. Knowing those details was important in creating a post construction road rehabilitation plan. To create that plan, in addition to using existing engineering data and GPR data, a team of representatives representing Iberdrola, Mortenson, Livingston County Engineering and the township's CC drove every road used in the wind farm footprint. This team approach was helpful in building consensus on the methods needed to repair and or reconstruct the township system.

One of my main responsibilities was to insure that the roads were repaired or reconstructed and returned to the townships in as good or better condition than when Iberdrola started work. Iberdrola asked the township to create the list of roads to be repaired or rebuilt. I fully expected to then have to fight and negotiate to get the township repairs completed to our satisfaction. Imagine my surprise when I gave them the scope of work and they approved it without any hesitation.

**Scope of work highlights:** Approximately 22 miles of existing A3 (oil and chip) township roads were rebuilt as A3 roads. These existing roads were milled, graded, strengthened with additional aggregate where existing roads did not meet minimum standards, rolled, test-rolled with verification by a local independent engineering firm, primed, and sealed using a combination of hot oil/emulsion and 5/8 and 3/8 aggregate. Full width chippers were used which lessened road closure time and provided a more consistent surface. Over 4 miles of existing A3 roads had limited or minor surface damage and received an oil and chip top coat. About 10 miles of existing aggregate or aggregate/soil roads were upgraded and strengthened, graded, widened and test rolled. About 6 ½ miles of existing roads that had limited SCR construction traffic use needed no post construction work.

Since road rehabilitation is nearly completed, I've received feedback from area farmers and landowners who indicate that many of these roads have never been in this good of shape. One of the road commissioners said, "I wish we could have them rebuild every road in my township".

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As you know, in nearly every construction project there are unanticipated issues. While these unanticipated issues were minimal, the mark of a good company is how they address them. In every instance, Iberdrola and their subcontractors addressed them with honesty, transparency and integrity. It was a benefit to the townships to know that when issues arose honest answers and workable solutions were offered and implemented. For example, when a route on the approved transportation plan became unavailable, instead of just using the township roads without permission, the CC was asked if alternate township roads could be used. Although this request cost Iberdrola more money for additional engineering and survey work, this work was quickly and competently completed and the survey indicated that additional township roadway structures would be impacted. A plan was created to use temporary bridges and the additional roads were incorporated into the routing maps. These roads were then reconstructed and or repaired both during construction and after completion.

Iberdrola prides itself on creating a safe work environment both for the public and for their workforce. I have heard similar statements numerous times before. While some contractors have created an outstanding safety environment, many contractors fall far short. Iberdrola and their general contractor, Mortenson, practice what they preach. Safety is a priority. Unsafe practices are simply not allowed to occur or immediately remedied when found. For two years, in every meeting I attended, productivity was not the first item on the agenda; safety issues were.

In early meetings Iberdrola team members stressed that, considering that they planned to be in the area for a number of years, one of their goals was to be a good neighbor. They put these words into action. Simple items like housekeeping and litter were addressed daily. Many times I saw employees stop to pick up debris that was, in all likelihood, tossed by a thoughtless driver and not from a construction employee. In fact, now that the vast majority of the construction workers are gone, the "normal" rural road trash is again appearing. And while some folks may not consider the following important, it is another sign of being a good neighbor; Iberdrola provided numerous, clean, well-stocked, and well maintained, portable sanitation facilities for their workforce. Another example of Iberdrola being a good neighbor and a safe company is how they acted during school pick up and drop off times. Part of the SCR project is on a school bus route. During pick up and drop off times construction equipment, whenever possible, would vacate the public roads to lessen any possibilities of adverse travel or potential for crashes with the school buses.

Construction, like most businesses, survives and prospers on good communications. As the designated representative for the townships, I was included in daily briefings, attended weekly and monthly progress meetings and received hundreds of phone calls and e-mail. They communicated with the townships not only because they may have needed information or permission but simply to keep the townships informed. Construction is an ever changing process and being kept up-to-date allowed the townships to make informed decisions about their roadway infrastructure.

I can honestly state, as the township construction coordinator for the Streator Cayuga Ridge project, that I am extremely pleased with the quality of workmanship and professionalism that Iberdrola provided. Please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience if I can provide more details or answer any questions.

Sincerely,



Brian Brakebill