

**BEFORE
THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD**

In the Matter of the Application of Hardin	:	
Wind LLC for a Certificate to construct a	:	Case No. 13-1177-EL-BGN
Wind-Powered Electric Generating Facility	:	
in Hardin County and Logan County, Ohio.	:	
	:	
In the Matter of Applications of the Hardin	:	
Wind LLC for a Certificate of	:	Case No. 13-1767-EL-BSB
Environmental Compatibility and Public	:	
Need for a Substation Project in Hardin	:	
County.	:	
	:	
In the Matter of Applications by the Hardin	:	
Wind LLC for a Certificate of	:	Case No. 13-1768-EL-BTX
Environmental Compatibility and Public	:	
Need for a 345 kV Transmission Line in	:	
Hardin County.	:	

**PREFILED TESTIMONY
OF
DONALD E. ROSTOFER
ON BEHALF OF THE STAFF OF
THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD**

STAFF EX. _____

January 16, 2014

1 1. Q. Please state your name and business address.

2 A. My name is Donald E. Rostofer. My business address is 180 E. Broad
3 Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793
4

5 2. Q. By who are you employed?

6 A. I am employed by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) as a
7 Utility Specialist 2 in the Facilities, Siting & Environmental Analysis
8 Division of the PUCO's Department of Energy and Environment.
9

10 3. Q. Please summarize your educational background and work experience?

11 A. I received a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resource Management
12 from The Ohio State University in 1993. I also obtained an Electrical
13 Power Production Specialist Certification from the United States Air Force
14 (USAF) in 1987. Additionally, I have attended numerous training courses
15 related to environmental studies, the National Environmental Policy Act
16 (NEPA), and management, as offered by the State of Ohio, US Fish and
17 Wildlife Service, and the USAF and received various certificates.
18

19 I was employed by the USAF Reserves, 445th Civil Engineering Squadron,
20 as an electrical power production specialist and section supervisor from
21 1987 to 2003. In 1997, I started my career with the state of Ohio and was
22 employed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division

1 of Real Estate and Land Management, Office of Coastal Management, as a
2 property agent in the Lake Erie Submerged Lands and Coastal Zone
3 Management Program. In 1998, I transferred to the ODNR, Division of
4 Natural Areas & Preserves, Scenic Rivers Section, as the Southwest Ohio
5 Scenic Rivers Manager. In 2001, I transferred to the Ohio Department of
6 Transportation, Office of Environmental Services as an environmental
7 specialist and later became an environmental supervisor.

8
9 I started working at the PUCO in 2009. My position includes assigned
10 duties by the Chairman of the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) to
11 investigate applications filed with the OPSB and assist in preparing reports.
12 In executing my duties, I have specifically investigated applications for
13 nine proposed wind generation facilities and six related amendment
14 applications and numerous electric transmission projects.

15
16 4. Q. Have you testified in prior proceedings before the Ohio Power Siting
17 Board?

18 A. Yes. I have provided prefiled testimony in the Blackfork Wind Farm (Case
19 No. 10-2865-EL-BGN) and the Buckeye II Wind Farm (Case No. 12-160-
20 EL-BGN) cases.

1 5. Q. What was your role in the Staff Report of Investigation for Scioto Ridge
2 Wind Farm (Case No. 13-1177-EL-BGN) case and the combined Staff
3 Report of Investigation for the Scioto Ridge Substation (Case No. 13-1767-
4 EL-BSB) and 345 kV Transmission Line (Case No. 13-1768-EL-BTX)
5 case?

6 A. I managed the staff investigations and preparation of the staff reports.
7

8 6. Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in these cases?

9 A. On behalf of the Ohio Power Siting Board Staff, I am sponsoring the Staff
10 Report of Investigation for each of these cases.
11

12 7. Q. What are the application procedures that OPSB Staff used to investigate
13 each of these cases?

14 A. The procedures Staff used to investigate each of these cases are outlined on
15 pages 1 & 2 of each Staff Report of Investigation.
16

17 8. Q. What criteria were used by OPSB staff to evaluate these cases and to
18 develop each Staff Report of Investigation?

19 A. The conclusions and recommended conditions of the Staff Report of
20 Investigations were developed pursuant to the criteria set forth in
21 R.C. Section 4906.10(A). Counsel advises me that under the statute, the
22 Board shall not grant a certificate for the construction, operation, and

1 maintenance of a major utility facility, either as proposed or as modified by
2 the Board, unless it finds and determines all criteria are met. These criteria
3 can be found on page 3 of each Staff Report of Investigation.
4

5 9. Q. Did you consider basis of need in your evaluation of these cases?

6 A. Yes. Counsel advises me that R.C. Section 4906.10(A)(1) is not applicable
7 to the Scioto Ridge Wind Farm or Substation cases because R.C. Section
8 4906.10(A)(1) is specifically for electric transmission line and gas pipeline
9 facilities. Basis of need does apply to the 345 kV transmission line (Case
10 No. 13-1768-EL-BTX).
11

12 10. Q. Why are recommended conditions provided in each Staff Report of
13 Investigation and what is their purpose in these cases?

14 A. The recommended conditions of each Staff Report of Investigation are
15 products of the Staff's investigation and conclusions in these cases and are
16 intended to reasonably minimize expected impacts of the facilities. Staff
17 has recommended 17 conditions for the Scioto Ridge Wind Farm (Case No.
18 13-1177-EL-BGN) and 11 conditions for the combined Substation and 345
19 kV Transmission Line (Case No. 13-1767-EL-BSB and 13-1768-EL-BTX)
20 for the Board's consideration.
21

1 11. Q. Are all impacts or risks associated with construction and operation of these
2 facilities eliminated if all recommended conditions are accepted by the
3 Board and made part of a certificate?

4 A. No. Again, Staff's recommended conditions are intended to reasonably
5 minimize impacts and risk.
6

7 12. Q. In each Staff Report of Investigation it states, "These recommended
8 conditions may be modified as a result of public or other input received
9 subsequent to issuance of this report." Please explain what this means.

10 A. Based on the results of input from interveners, elected officials, and the
11 public, Staff may modify recommended conditions for the Board's
12 consideration in each case.
13

14 13. Q. After the Board issues a certificate, is Staff simply free to change condi-
15 tions that the Board has adopted?

16 A. No. Only the Board has the authority to modify or change any part of a
17 certificate, including conditions.
18

19 14. Q. What is the definition of "project area" under OAC Chapter 4906-17(B)(1)?

20 A. "Project area" means the total wind-powered electric generation facility,
21 including associated setbacks.
22

1 15. Q. What is the definition of the project area for the Scioto Ridge Wind Farm?

2 A. The project area for the Scioto Ridge Wind Farm consists of approximately
3 17,000 acres of leased private land in Lynn, McDonald, Roundhead, and
4 Taylor Creek townships in Hardin County, Ohio, and Richland and
5 Rushcreek townships in Logan County, Ohio. The project area and
6 proposed facilities are shown on the maps included in Staff Report of
7 Investigation.

8
9 16. Q. What is the definition of “wind-powered electric generation facility” or
10 “wind-energy facility” or “Facility” under OAC Chapter 4906-17(B)(2)?

11 A. “Wind-powered electric generation facility” or “wind-energy facility” or
12 “Facility” means all the turbines, collection lines, any associated
13 substations, and all other associated equipment.

14
15 17. Q. What is the description of the Facility as it pertains to the Scioto Ridge
16 Wind Farm?

17 A. The Facility consists of up to 176 wind turbines sites, each turbine has a
18 nameplate capacity rating of 1.7 to 3.0 MW (depending on the final turbine
19 model selected), and the total generating capacity of the Facility will be 300
20 MW. Therefore, depending on the turbine model selected, the number of
21 turbines actually constructed will vary by model. However, only the 176

1 sites discussed in the Application and Staff Report of Investigation can
2 actually be utilized. The Facility is expected to operate with an average
3 annual capacity factor of 30-35%, generating a total of approximately
4 788,400 to 998,640 Mega-Watt hours (MWh) of electricity each year.

5
6 25. Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

7 A. Yes, it does.

PROOF OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing Prefiled Testimony of Donald E. Rostofer, submitted on behalf of the Staff of the Ohio Power Siting Board, was served via electronic mail, upon the following parties of record, this 16th day of January, 2014.

/s/Thomas G. Lindgren

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Case No(s). 13-1177-EL-BGN, 13-1767-EL-BSB, 13-1768-EL-BTX

Summary: Testimony Prefiled Testimony of Donald E. Rostofer electronically filed by Mrs. Tonna Y Scott on behalf of PUCO