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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

4

PUBLIC HEARING

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CASE NUMBERS:

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Case No. 15-1716-EL-BGN

8

and

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Case No. 15-1717-EL-BTX

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Tuesday, July 6, 2016

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Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

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Local Public Hearing, In the Matter of the

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Application of SouthField Energy, LLC for a

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Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and

17

Public Need to construct an Electric Generation

18

Facility in Columbiana County, as well as In the

19

Matter of the Application of SouthField Energy,

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LLC for a Certificate of Environmental

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Compatibility and Public Need to construct an

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Electric Transmission Line in Columbiana County.

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1 MR. WALSTRA: The Ohio Power Siting
2 Board has assigned for public hearing in
3 two cases, Case No. 15-1716-EL-BGN,
4 being captioned In the Matter of the
5 Application of SouthField Energy, LLC
6 for a Certificate of Environmental
7 Compatibility and Public Need to
8 construct an Electric Generation
9 Facility in Columbiana County, as well
10 as Case No. 15-1717-EL-BTX, being
11 captioned, In the Matter of the
12 Application of SouthField Energy, LLC
13 for a Certificate of Environmental
14 Compatibility and Public Need to
15 construct an Electric Transmission Line
16 in Columbiana County.

17 My name is Nick Walstra. I am the
18 Administrative Law Judge assigned by the
19 Power Siting Board to hear this case.
20 With me in the room today are members of
21 the Power Siting staff: Matt Butler and
22 Jim O'Dell come to talk to you guys,
23 help you sign in.

24 At this point we'll take
25 appearances from the parties in this

1 proceeding.

2 On behalf of SouthField?

3 MR. SETTINERI: Thank you, Your
4 Honor. On behalf of Southfield Energy,
5 LLC, Mike Settineri, Law Firm of Vorys,
6 Sater, Seymour and Pease, 52 East Gay
7 Street, Columbus, Ohio. Also with me
8 tonight Tom (inaudible) from SouthField.

9 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you. Is anyone
10 here from FirstEnergy?

11 Anyone here from Columbiana County
12 Development Department?

13 MR. HARROLD: thank you, Your
14 Honor. Pat Harrold, Economic
15 Development Group from Columbiana, Ohio
16 from the Columbiana County Development
17 Corp. Thank you.

18 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you. Anyone
19 from Yellow Creek Township?

20 MR. BIACCO: Good evening. Ken
21 Biacco, Jr., Yellow Creek Township
22 Trustee and Chairman of the Board.

23 MR. WALSTRA: Spell your last name.

24 MR. BIACCO: B as in boy,
25 I-A-C-C-O.

1 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

2 MR. BIACCO: Thank you.

3 MR. WALSTRA: The subject of
4 today's hearing is limited to the
5 applications filed by SouthField Energy
6 on December 7, 2015 and January 15,
7 2016. SouthField proposes to construct
8 and operate a 1,105 megawatt natural
9 gas-fired electric generation facility
10 in Columbiana County. The project
11 includes a 3.9-mile long, 345 kilovolt
12 transmission line and an electrical
13 switchyard that would interconnect the
14 facility to the electric grid.

15 SouthField proposes to commence
16 construction in January of 2017 and
17 begin commercial operation by January
18 2020.

19 The staff of the Power Siting Board
20 filed a report in each of these cases on
21 May 20, 2016, conducted an investigation
22 and a review. The staff gave a
23 recommendation to allow the project to
24 go forward. In the facility project
25 there were 28 conditions that staff said

1 must be met before they can continue and
2 26 conditions in the transmission line
3 project.

4 Staff's report is a recommendation
5 to the Power Siting Board, but the Board
6 still has final say.

7 An evidentiary hearing is scheduled
8 for June 21, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at the
9 Board's office in Columbus.

10 SouthField's applications, staff's
11 reports -- staff's report and
12 recommendations are all available on the
13 Power Siting website under the case
14 numbers I gave at the beginning.

15 The purpose of this hearing today
16 is to receive comments from you about
17 the application. This isn't a question-
18 and-answer session. It's your chance to
19 give testimony and the let the Power
20 Siting Board know what you think about
21 both proposals.

22 There's not court reporter here,
23 but we are recording this. Everything
24 that's said here today will be made part
25 of the record. And that record, the

1 Power Siting Board will review. It will
2 be filed in the docket in both case
3 numbers. You can also submit comments
4 in writing by mailing the Power Siting
5 Board. Or there's also an online
6 submission process.

7 If you wish to speak, hopefully you
8 put your name on the list. I'm just
9 going to go in the order that they came
10 in. I'll swear you in, and then please
11 state your name and address and give
12 your testimony.

13 That being said, we will get
14 started. And I apologize for all the
15 pronunciations.

16 Rich Bereschik.

17 - - - - -

18 RICHARD BERESCHIK,

19 After having been first duly sworn, as
20 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified
21 as follows:

22 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you. Please
23 state your name and address.

24 MR. BERESCHIK: I'm Rich Bereschik.
25 I'm the superintendent of Wellsville

1 Local Schools. My address is 18858 Fife
2 Coal Road, Wellsville, Ohio.

3 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

4 MR. BERESCHIK: I am speaking this
5 even on behalf of my board of education.
6 My board president sends his apologies.
7 He could not be here tonight. He's not
8 feeling well, but I have three other
9 board members right over here.

10 We are in favor of this power
11 plant. Just going to give you a couple
12 reasons why. We're a very rich school
13 system as far as our community, our
14 staff, our children. But we are one of
15 the poorest school systems in the State
16 of Ohio. We can only generate about
17 \$46,000 for every mill we pass, and the
18 average household income in Wellsville
19 is \$26,000.

20 We've been getting by for many
21 years. I been here since 1974/1975.
22 We've had four reductions in force and
23 other reductions due to attrition. All
24 we want as a board of education is to
25 form a partnership with SouthField

1 Energy Advanced Fire so we can give our
2 students every opportunity every other
3 student has in the State of Ohio. This
4 is all about the kids, and I believe it
5 will be beneficial. And that's really
6 all I have to say. Have a good night.

7 MR. WALSTRA: You do the same.
8 Matthew Szollosi.

9 - - - - -

10 MATTHEW SZOLLOSI,

11 After having been first duly sworn, as
12 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified
13 as follows:

14 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

15 MR. SZOLLOSI: LJ Walstra, thank
16 you, Your Honor, for giving me the
17 opportunity to address you in support of
18 the application submitted by SouthField
19 Energy, LLC. Act Ohio or the Affiliated
20 Construction Trades Ohio foundation is a
21 501(C)5 organization that was
22 established by the Ohio State Building
23 and Construction Trades Council to
24 facilitate economic and industrial
25 development and promote industry best

1 practices for Ohio's public and private
2 construction.

3 Our 130 plus affiliates in 14
4 regional councils across the State of
5 Ohio represent over 92,000 of Ohio's
6 most skilled construction professionals,
7 many of whom reside in Columbiana County
8 and surrounding county and are here in
9 support of this project and these two
10 case applications this evening.

11 We work with our partner
12 contractors to provide the very best
13 work product and value for our
14 customers. We work with many national
15 contractors, including the Bechtel
16 Corporation who has been selected to
17 construct this facility on a regular
18 basis. Seventy percent of our 14,000
19 signatory contractors in Ohio, however,
20 employ 15 or less people.

21 Through these partnerships and
22 labor management cooperatives, jointly
23 administered health insurance and
24 retirement funds have been established
25 to attract and maintain the best and

1 brightest in the construction industry.
2 Random mandatory drug testing has been
3 our standard for our workforce over the
4 course of many, many years. One
5 cornerstone of our approach is our
6 investment in state of the art
7 apprenticeship training.

8 Again, jointly administered in
9 equal numbers by labor and management
10 representatives, our affiliates invest
11 hundred of millions of dollars per year
12 to train apprentices and update our
13 journeymen skills. The other
14 fundamental building block of our
15 industry is safety.

16 More than anything, our members
17 want two things: The ability to go to
18 work and the ability to go home to their
19 families safely after their shift.

20 Our partner employer's strict
21 ironclad enforcement of safety standards
22 and our safety training investments help
23 minimize or eliminate workplace injuries
24 and fatalities.

25 We take great pride in handling

1 major industrial development projects
2 with zero lost time injuries. And that
3 doesn't happen by, quote, unquote,
4 accident. Our workforce has
5 successfully completed tens of billions
6 of dollars of work from nuclear power
7 plants to oil refineries, auto and other
8 manufacturing facilities, skyscrapers,
9 schools, hospitals, every type of
10 vertical construction and remodeling you
11 can imagine.

12 We are currently completing the
13 Carroll County Energy Project, as well
14 as several other similar natural gas
15 energy generation facilities at
16 estimates approaching five billion
17 dollars.

18 In April of this year we finalized
19 a project labor agreement for the five
20 and a half billion dollar PTT Global
21 Chemical Ethane cracker in Bellmont
22 County, Ohio.

23 We see this 1.1 billion dollar
24 project as a win/win for the local
25 economy and the school district. I want

1 to acknowledge the superintendent's
2 comments, and we certainly support
3 everything that the superintendent and
4 speaking on behalf of the school
5 district has testified to. Obviously,
6 the project provides a win/win scenario
7 for the local workforce, specifically
8 the 550 good-paying construction jobs
9 that will result if this project were to
10 go forward, over a two-and-a-half year
11 build out, certainly, the investor and
12 the State of Ohio. This 1,100 megawatt
13 natural gas-fired combined cycle power
14 plant will help anchor the local economy
15 for decades to come.

16 As with all major industrial
17 projects, the key is to strike the
18 correct balance between the rights and
19 interests of the adjacent property
20 owners, the community, including the --
21 the school district and, of course, the
22 investors. I'm confident it can be
23 done.

24 On behalf of Act Ohio, our local
25 affiliates and over 92,000 plus members

1 in the State of Ohio, we urge your
2 favorable consideration and
3 certification of these projects. Thank
4 you very much.

5 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

6 Ed Robinson.

7 MR. ROBINSON: Hello. My name is
8 Ed Robinson. I'm representing the
9 Carrollton Exempted Village School
10 District, Carrollton Board of Education
11 and Dr. David Quattrochi,
12 superintendent.

13 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

14 - - - - -

15 ED ROBINSON,

16 After having been first duly sworn, as
17 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified
18 as follows:

19 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you. Go ahead.

20 MR. ROBINSON: Did you want my
21 address?

22 MR. WALSTRA: Please.

23 MR. ROBINSON: 252 3rd Street,
24 Northeast, Carrollton, 44615.

25 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

1 MR. ROBINSON: I'm here as a guest
2 of Carroll County Energy, Advance Power
3 and the SouthField Project and how it
4 represented the schools in Carroll
5 County and currently is changing the
6 face of the schools in Carroll County; a
7 school district that had not passed --
8 has not passed any kind of bond or levy
9 since 1977.

10 Our children reside in a 1912
11 elementary, three 1925 elementaries and
12 middle school, and our newest building
13 in 1952, high school. We need new
14 buildings, and the tax abatement from
15 this issue in our school district is
16 really a game changer for the kids of
17 Carroll County and also for the
18 community of Carrollton Village and
19 Carroll County. Gentlemen that are here
20 from Carroll County government, Glen
21 Enslin, Jeff Ohlar will testify that
22 later. And I think this is a great deal
23 for Wellsville City Schools and
24 Columbiana County. Thank you.

25 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

1 Ed Looman.

2 MR. LOOMAN: Good evening.

3 - - - - -

4 ED LOOMAN,

5 After having been first duly sworn, as
6 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified
7 as follows:

8 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you. Name and
9 address, please.

10 MR. LOOMAN: My name is Ed Looman.
11 My work address is 35 Public Square,
12 Nelsonville, Ohio. My home address,
13 3139 Portland Boulevard in Stuebenville,
14 Ohio.

15 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

16 MR. LOOMAN: I'm employed as the
17 Eastern Ohio Project Manager for the
18 Appalachian Partnership for Economic
19 Growth, which is the Jobs Ohio Network
20 Partner serving this region of the
21 state. Jobs Ohio, as you may know, is
22 Ohio's economic development department.

23 I've been a resident of this region
24 for most of my life and now work on
25 economic development projects in this

1 region. So I've seen the good times
2 and, unfortunately, the bad times. And
3 I believe this project represents part
4 of the renaissance for this region. A
5 1.1 billion dollar investment in our
6 area was unheard of for a number of
7 years, and now we're getting looks at
8 projects that are in that price range of
9 a look at what's happened in some of the
10 counties since the oil and gas play hit.
11 It's been phenomenal.

12 I've worked with this company in
13 Carroll County, seeing as Mr. Robinson's
14 described what's going on with the
15 schools and you'll hear more about
16 what's happening in the community. Huge
17 economic impact on our area.
18 Construction jobs and then permanent
19 jobs, in addition to the other economic
20 impacts that this will bring to our
21 region. So on behalf of APEG, I came
22 tonight to offer our support for this
23 project. Thank you very much.

24 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

25 Donna Saur.

1 MS. SAUR: Hello, Your Honor.

2 - - - - -

3 DONNA SAUR,

4 After having been first duly sworn, as
5 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified
6 as follows:

7 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you. Go ahead.

8 MS. SAUR: Everybody was very
9 professional. I'm just a little deli
10 owner in Carrollton. My name is Donna
11 Saur. I live at 4300 Aurora Road,
12 Mechanicstown, Ohio.

13 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

14 MS. SAUR: I just -- I'm in
15 absolute support of this project. I
16 just wanted to let people know that
17 because of this coming in to Carroll
18 County, we increased our business by
19 between 30 and 40 percent, depending on
20 the day. Which we are only open for
21 lunch. So our busiest time is an
22 hour-and-a-half or two-hour preferred.
23 So 30 or 40 percent is a game changer
24 for us. It's been great.

25 My mother owns rental properties in

1 Carroll County and they are being rented
2 out by the people at the power plant.
3 So they might not have been otherwise.
4 It's just been beneficial all around.
5 They're very kind people. They -- it's
6 been good. That's all I have to say.
7 You should go for it. Seize the
8 opportunity. Okay? Thank you.

9 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

10 Michael Richter.

11 MR. RICHTER: Hello, Your Honor.
12 My name's Michael Richter. I'm from
13 Cadiz, Ohio. 49505 Georgetown Adena
14 Road. I am on staff for Carroll County
15 Constructors currently in Carroll County
16 at the powerhouse. I been on staff
17 sense March of this year. And I'd like
18 to speak on the professionalism of this
19 job and the local people that they've
20 been employing and the supervision on
21 staff.

22 MR. WALSTRA: Let me swear you in.

23 MR. RICHTER: Yes, sir.

24 - - - - -

25 MICHAEL RICHTER,

1 After having been first duly sworn, as
2 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified
3 as follows:

4 MR. WALSTRA: Go ahead. Thank you.

5 MR. RICHTER: All right. I'll get
6 back where I was.

7 Yeah, the local staff we have on
8 site is a quite high percentage.
9 Bechtel is a very big company. But they
10 are hiring local hands and local
11 supervision. There is a locally
12 produced industry -- energy source. I
13 think we ought to keep it in-house, make
14 our power with it here in our local
15 areas instead of shipping it in
16 pipelines and sending it down the road
17 and letting somebody else do this. I
18 think, like the previous lady said, we
19 need to capitalize on this opportunity
20 to bring in the local jobs, the
21 infrastructure that follows and
22 everything that surround it. The other
23 businesses that will be compensated and
24 everything that goes, the families that
25 will be supported by the local wages.

1 This is a no-brainer for me, and I think
2 it should be for everybody here. That's
3 all I got to say.

4 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

5 MR. RICHTER: Thank you.

6 MR. WALSTRA: Nick Amato.

7 MR. AMATO: Your Honor, my name's
8 Nick Amato. I'm a local attorney. I
9 reside at 51315 Fieldstone Drive, East
10 Liverpool, Ohio, and I have a law office
11 here in Wellsville, Ohio at 991 Main
12 Street, Wellsville.

13 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

14 MR. AMATO: Also, I'm a member of
15 the Columbiana County Port Authority.

16 MR. WALSTRA: Okay. Raise your
17 right hand.

18 - - - - -

19 NICK AMATO,

20 After having been first duly sworn, as
21 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified
22 as follows:

23 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

24 MR. AMATO: Your Honor, I just
25 wanted to state, as I did, that I was

1 born and raised here, went to school
2 here in Wellsville, taught by
3 Mr. Bereschik who's now the
4 superintendent, agree with everything
5 that he said. And as we were, you know,
6 going through college, law school and
7 people were making decisions as to
8 whether or not to come back to this
9 community, a lot of people didn't. But
10 a lot of us did and choose to raise our
11 families here and -- and create
12 businesses here. And I think that this
13 project's going to be good for the
14 community and good for businesses. And
15 also, the Columbiana County Port
16 Authority is tasked with creating and
17 helping further economic development
18 here in the county, which we have been
19 doing. And we believe that this also
20 will be a good project for -- for jobs,
21 a local economy, and we're in support of
22 it. Thank you.

23 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you. Cindy
24 Bartlett.

25 MS. BARTLETT: I'll pass, Your

1 Honor.

2 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

3 MS. BARTLETT: Thank you.

4 MR. WALSTRA: Bob Kruppa?

5 MR. KRUPPA: Hi. My name is Bob

6 Kruppa. My address is 418 Durst Drive,

7 Warren, Ohio, and I'm here to speak in

8 -- I'm the Chief Engineer for Advanced

9 Professional Engineering Services in

10 Warren. I just -- basically, that's the

11 bad thing about being seventh or eighth.

12 MR. WALSTRA: Can I swear you in

13 real quick?

14 MR. KRUPPA: Oh, yes. Sorry.

15 Sorry.

16 - - - - -

17 BOB KRUPPA,

18 After having been first duly sworn, as

19 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified

20 as follows:

21 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

22 MR. KRUPPA: Basically, everybody

23 summarized pretty much what I wanted to

24 say as well. The economic and

25 environmental impact that this facility

1 is going to have is negligible. I've
2 worked at various power plants across
3 the country and there's not a better
4 neighbor than a power plant. That
5 sounds odd, but it's the truth. And
6 basically that's all I have to say. I
7 hope it goes.

8 MR. WALSTRA: All right. Thank
9 you.

10 MR. KRUPPA: Thank you.

11 MR. WALSTRA: Kyle Brown.

12 MR. BROWN: Thank you, Your Honor.

13 MR. WALSTRA: Raise your right
14 hand.

15 - - - - -

16 KYLE BROWN,

17 After having been first duly sworn, as
18 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified
19 as follows:

20 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you. Go ahead.

21 MR. BROWN: My name's Kyle Brown,
22 K-Y-L-E, B-R-O-W-N. I reside at 922
23 Euclid, E-U-C-L-I-D, Avenue Toronto,
24 Ohio. I want to thank you for this
25 opportunity to speak in support of the

1 SouthField Energy Project. I speak on
2 behalf of the 6,000 skilled craftspeople
3 of the Upper Ohio Valley Building
4 Trades, which is located just north of
5 this area and on behalf of the 250 local
6 electricians that will be challenged
7 with managing this project.

8 SouthField Energy and their
9 proposed contractors have committed to
10 using local area skilled craftsmen in
11 the construction of this facility. This
12 is a shot in the -- in the arm which our
13 area needs and deserves. I speak in
14 support of this project and the positive
15 economic benefits this project will
16 provide to our area. Thank you for
17 giving us this opportunity.

18 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

19 Bill Sherer.

20 - - - - -

21 BILL SHERER,

22 After having been first duly sworn, as
23 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified
24 as follows:

25 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you. Go ahead.

1 MR. SHERER: My name is Bill
2 Sherer. I'm the business manager,
3 financial secretary/treasurer for
4 Ironworkers Local 550 in Canton, Ohio.
5 I'm speaking -- speaking on behalf
6 tonight on SouthField energy and
7 Advanced Energy.

8 Approximately probably about a
9 little over a year ago Advanced Energy
10 had contacted our building trades about
11 the possibility of building a new
12 powerhouse in Carrollton, Ohio. In the
13 28 years that I have in the ironworking
14 industry, never in my life would I ever
15 thought they would have built a
16 powerhouse down in Carrollton. Which
17 that -- that project has been a God send
18 for that community and our members who
19 live in that community, just the
20 economic impact alone. And I just
21 wanted to come over here and speak and
22 be in favor of building the project in
23 Wellsville on behalf of Advanced Energy.
24 Thank you.

25 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

1 MR. SHERER: I think somebody left
2 a cell phone up here.

3 MR. WALSTRA: That's recording.

4 MR. SHERER: Oh, there you go.

5 MR. WALSTRA: Hopefully.

6 Rick Moss.

7 MR. MOSS: Thank you, Your Honor.

8 - - - - -

9 RICK MOSS,

10 After having been first duly sworn, as
11 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified
12 as follows:

13 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

14 MR. MOSS: Rick Moss, Ironworkers
15 Local 550, President. I'm following up
16 Bill Sherer on behalf of Dave Kirven,
17 East Central Ohio Building Trades
18 Construction Council. He'll be speaking
19 here shortly, I believe.

20 This project has been a God send,
21 like Bill said. Also, it's employed
22 many military people who've -- you know,
23 there's -- there's turnaround of
24 military, guys coming out, guys going
25 in. And the building trades is in favor

1 of helmets to hard hats; the transition
2 from the war place to the workplace.
3 And our military people need a
4 mission-oriented project. This project
5 is run very well. It's driven in the
6 morning. You have Pledge of Allegiance.
7 You have stretching. Everybody is
8 accountable for their actions on the
9 project. The customer is on the
10 project, so they see the actions of the
11 construction people. So it's sort of a
12 changeup in the different agreements
13 over the years the building trades have
14 had. I encourage the trades to embrace
15 it. It's a step forth, and you have to
16 ask all the questions and you have to
17 supply. But so far this project has
18 been what it says to be. It's been
19 really a good project.

20 The Carroll County Constructors
21 have stood by their word. Thank you.

22 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

23 Tony DiTommaso.

24 - - - - -

25 TONY DiTOMMASO,

1 After having been first duly sworn, as
2 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified
3 as follows:

4 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you. Go ahead.

5 MR. DiTOMMASO: Good evening. I'm
6 Tony DiTommaso, and I'm a carpenter
7 representative, member of the Building
8 Trades of Western Reserve Building
9 Trades. And we are the people that will
10 be supplying the people to work here. I
11 have members in Columbiana County,
12 Mahoning, Trumbull and that building
13 trades services this area. And we are
14 welcoming this project. We are in full
15 support of it. We've seen the project
16 in Carrollton and what it's meant for
17 the economic development. And we're
18 waiting for our chance to get local
19 people on jobs here, putting money back
20 into this community. The three to 500
21 different working men and women are
22 going to be the brothers and sisters of
23 the people of this community, the
24 fathers and mothers of the people of
25 this community. And we welcome the

1 chance for us to get our members working
2 on a local job and feeding back into the
3 economy. Thank you.

4 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

5 Tim Weigle.

6 - - - - -

7 TIM WEIGLE,

8 After having been first duly sworn, as
9 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified
10 as follows:

11 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you. Go ahead.

12 MR. WEIGLE: Your Honor, I'm Tim
13 Weigle, Columbiana County Commissioner.
14 I'm here to provide testimony this
15 evening on behalf of the Board of
16 Commissioners, Mr. Mike Halleck,
17 President, Mr. Jim Hopple and myself.

18 I start by saying we are in full
19 support of this project. We've had a
20 lot of communication with SouthField
21 Energy, and they have been nothing but
22 great to work with. The economic
23 development and the facts state that 550
24 peak -- average annual jobs will be
25 provided over a two-year buildout

1 period. All these construction jobs
2 will be done by our union labor, our
3 skilled tradesmen and they provide good
4 work.

5 At the end of this construction
6 period, there will be 25 to 30 jobs that
7 will be full time. And we look forward
8 to those people being employed locally
9 here.

10 The indirect cost and economic
11 stimulus for this will be overwhelming.
12 These people, as they work here in our
13 county in Yellow Creek Township will --
14 will come in and they will have --
15 they'll take our gasoline, they will use
16 our food. Much consumables. This is a
17 great opportunity for the southern part
18 of the county.

19 Columbiana County is -- is open for
20 business. We have worked very
21 diligently with SouthField Energy and
22 the political subdivisions to allow
23 business to come in. We realize as
24 Commissioners we can't provide jobs, but
25 we can create an environment for these

1 jobs.

2 SouthField Energy is going to
3 invest 1.1 billion dollars in our county
4 for this project. Now, let me put that
5 in perspective. If you take a look at
6 our entire net worth of assets --
7 tangible assets in Columbiana County,
8 it's only 4.4 billion dollars. So
9 they're willing to invest one quarter of
10 our entire worth in Columbiana County.
11 That is extreme.

12 So we welcome SouthField Energy
13 into our county. We know that the
14 monies that they will provide for local
15 education and our local subdivisions in
16 the southern part of the county will
17 help the economic impact and bring these
18 counties -- these subdivisions into a
19 higher standard. So on behalf of the
20 Board of Commissioners, we support this
21 project. We look forward to SouthField
22 developing and a continued long
23 relationship. Thank you.

24 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you very much.

25 Dave Kirven.

1 - - - - -

2 DAVE KIRVEN,

3 After having been first duly sworn, as
4 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified
5 as follows:

6 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

7 MR. KIRVEN: My name's Dave Kirven.

8 I'm President of the East Central Ohio
9 Building and Construction Trades
10 Council. We currently have 300
11 workers -- craftsmen on the Carroll
12 County project.

13 I think everybody's talked about
14 the impact on the local workers. One
15 thing that's kind of coming up short
16 tonight is the -- is the community
17 partner that Advanced Power has been for
18 -- for the construction workers, the
19 communities, the schools.

20 They met with us probably -- it was
21 over a year before the -- we started the
22 project. And from day one they -- they
23 committed to local labor. They
24 committed to helping the community.
25 They committed to helping the schools.

1 They're going to change how education is
2 done, the money they're putting into the
3 education system. And I just wanted to
4 publicly thank Advanced Power for what
5 you're doing for our community and my
6 workers. Thank you.

7 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you very much.

8 Glen Enslen.

9 - - - - -

10 GLEN ENSLEN,

11 After having been first duly sworn, as
12 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified
13 as follows:

14 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

15 MR. ENSLEN: I'm Glen Enslen. I'm
16 the Director of Economic Development for
17 Carroll County. And the problem with
18 being late to the mic is I'm going to
19 repeat most of what everybody else
20 already said.

21 Two years ago Carrollton, Ohio
22 getting a new school was a dream that
23 hadn't even entered anybody's head.
24 Because Advanced Power came to Carroll
25 County, Carrollton getting a new high

1 school will soon be a reality. That's a
2 gigantic plus. You heard earlier how
3 old our school buildings were. That's a
4 huge plus. What a partner.

5 Beyond that, the construction jobs
6 that they've supplied are tremendous.
7 Several hundred people come to work at
8 Carroll County Energy every day that may
9 not have gone to work without the
10 project. I'm sure that Advanced Power
11 intends for those construction workers,
12 those local folks to move from Carroll
13 County to Columbiana County to work on
14 the power plant here. So the jobs are
15 going to extend another two-and-a-half
16 years beyond the completion of the
17 Carroll County Energy.

18 Additionally, you heard Donna say
19 how her deli benefits from Carroll
20 County Energy. Well, the stores and the
21 gas stations and the hotels all benefit
22 from that influx of construction
23 workers. And the county commissioners
24 benefit because of the additional sales
25 tax and bed tax caused by that group.

1 Beyond that, we are happy that
2 Carroll County Energy has talked about
3 some its services at the new plant that
4 they will contract out. We're certain
5 that those contracted services will
6 result in additional businesses located
7 in the county. And at this early stage
8 of the game, we've already had
9 discussions with Carroll County Energy
10 about the qualifications local folks
11 will need to fill the permanent
12 employment there. What a great
13 neighbor. I couldn't ask for more.

14 I'd like to point out that this
15 corner of Appalachia has been forgotten
16 for too long. And when an opportunity
17 like this comes along, we need to just
18 jump all over it. Thank you.

19 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

20 Jeff Ohler.

21 - - - - -

22 JEFF OHLER,

23 After having been first duly sworn, as
24 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified
25 as follows:

1 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you. Go ahead.

2 MR. OHLER: My name is Jeff Ohler.

3 I'm a Carroll County Commissioner. I'm
4 not sure I could expand on much that
5 Glen said but -- you know, I know
6 probably from the perspective of the
7 folks from Wellsville, probably not
8 unlike our situation was three or four
9 years ago, things usually don't happen
10 in communities like Carrollton and
11 Wellsville like this is happening. You
12 know, this is our chance. And we're
13 right in the midst of it. And
14 everything that Advanced Power and --
15 and I go back to the -- we had the
16 same -- very similar session in
17 Carrollton three years ago, the things
18 that were promised, the -- the displays,
19 all those things are coming to fruition
20 in Carroll County. And I -- I am
21 confident it will come to fruition in
22 Columbia County, as well.

23 You know, not only are these --
24 these guys very professional in their
25 jobs, but they're also good people. I

1 can remember Glen and I met with
2 Jonathan and with Dave Quattrochi. And
3 this was in the very early stages of the
4 abatement period. And Dr. Quattrochi --
5 you know, Jonathan asked him, you know,
6 what do you want out of this. And he
7 says, I want a new school. And we
8 thought we were going to have to bring
9 the -- the med techs in for Jonathan
10 because -- and we are getting his -- and
11 we are getting a new school. In fact,
12 we're in that planning stages right now.
13 We've seen tremendous growth in the
14 county from, obviously -- we're seeing a
15 lot of different license plates coming
16 through the county, working on the
17 project. And quite frankly, we're also
18 getting more calls right now for future
19 commercial development. And I think
20 that's primarily due to the power plant.
21 So, you know, it's a great thing for
22 your community. If I can tell the fine
23 folks of Wellsville anything, just be
24 patient. This is a long process and
25 you'd like to get it -- speed it up as

1 quick as you can. But quite frankly,
2 you have a great partner in Advanced
3 Power and they will be great for your
4 community. One other thing I don't
5 think anybody mentioned, but not only
6 was Advanced Power was helpful in the
7 building of the school, but they were
8 also a primary reason -- I think, Ed
9 Robinson, he may have spoke to this --
10 but it's one of the reasons our school
11 got a four million dollar grant from
12 its existing facility. So they've done
13 a tremendous job as well. So, you know,
14 we're proud to have them and God speed
15 Wellsville and God speed Advanced Power.

16 One -- one last thing, and I
17 promise I won't -- some of you folks --
18 this -- I had -- I got to finish with a
19 little bit of humor. Some of you folks
20 from Wellsville may recognize me. I was
21 in Sports Illustrated in 1971 and -- and
22 that -- and that was the year John
23 Babolic made 22 foul shots against
24 Carrollton, so --

25 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

1 Eva Elliott.

2 MR. GENTILE: Good evening, Your
3 Honor.

4 MR. WALSTRA: Good evening.

5 - - - - -

6 LOU GENTILE,

7 After having been first duly sworn, as
8 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified
9 as follows:

10 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you. Go ahead.

11 MR. GENTILE: Good evening. I'm
12 Ohio Senator Lou Gentile. I don't
13 represent this community. I represent
14 neighboring communities and also was
15 involved in the Carroll County Energy
16 Advanced Project in Carroll County with
17 Advanced Energy. And I'm here in
18 support of the project. I'm also here
19 representing Senator Joe Schiavoni who
20 could not be here who does represent
21 this community who passes along his
22 support for the project.

23 In our experience -- in my
24 experience with Advanced Power in
25 Carroll County, they're very

1 professional. They work closely with
2 local labor, involved with the local
3 building and construction trades who are
4 very qualified professional craftsmen
5 and women. And they had a very strong
6 commitment to local workers, to the
7 school district. And through that
8 experience, we've formed a great
9 partnership, which has benefited Carroll
10 County, which is in my district, which I
11 do represent.

12 And so I'm here to encourage
13 support for the project. I know there
14 will be economic benefit, economic
15 impact that goes beyond the borders of
16 this community and will extend to
17 workers throughout the upper Ohio
18 Valley, certainly workers and families
19 that I represent. And as I always do, I
20 would encourage the company to work
21 closely with landowners and local
22 community members to take into
23 consideration their needs and protect
24 their interests as well. But I do so --
25 come here today in support of the

1 project, in support of the jobs that it
2 will create for the entire Ohio Valley,
3 the economic impact it will have for
4 small businesses in the communities, as
5 well as employing local workers who I
6 believe are in much need of new job
7 opportunities. Thank you.

8 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you, Senator.

9 Was Ms. Elliott here?

10 - - - - -

11 EVA ELLIOTT,

12 After having been affirmed, as hereinafter
13 certified, was examined and testified as follows:

14 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

15 MS. ELLIOTT: My name is Eva
16 Elliott. I live at 15 Elliott Lane,
17 Wellsburg, West Virginia. I work as the
18 treasurer of Wellsville City -- or local
19 schools. And I am in support of this.
20 Being the financial person of the
21 district, I see what a tremendous asset
22 this will be to the district and also to
23 the children. I fully support it and
24 hope that everything will go well,
25 because this is a fine partnership.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

3 Nancy Francis.

4 - - - - -

5 NANCY FRANCIS,

6 After having been first duly sworn, as
7 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified
8 as follows:

9 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

10 MS. FRANCIS: My name is Nancy
11 Francis. My address is 17428 Cruise
12 Road, Wellsville. I'm representing
13 Wellsville Local School Board. For
14 two-and-a-half years from the inception
15 of this project. Our community will be
16 graced with well-paying construction
17 jobs. Many of these workers will need
18 places to live. They'll need places to
19 eat. They'll need places to shop, and
20 they'll need places to receive
21 entertainment. Currently, our community
22 is in a downward spiral. Our population
23 is declining. Many jobs have been
24 eliminated and businesses are closing
25 their doors or even leaving the area.

1 I remember a time when our
2 community was a thriving, bustling,
3 energetic little town. I would like to
4 see it return to that state. I would
5 like to see our children and grand
6 children experience the same type of
7 enthusiasm for this community that we
8 once had. They deserve it. As
9 Mr. Bereschik said earlier, we are
10 welcoming SouthField Energy to our
11 community and look forward to an
12 excitement, an exciting time returning
13 to our area. Thank you.

14 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you. Ryan
15 Jones.

16 Mr. Jones here? HE was the last
17 name on my list. Is there anyone else
18 who wishes to speak? Okay. Raise your
19 right hand.

20 - - - - -

21 NANCY MURRAY,

22 After having been first duly sworn, as
23 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified
24 as follows:

25 MR. WALSTRA: Name and address?

1 MS. MURRAY: My name is Nancy
2 Murray. I'm the mayor of the Village of
3 Wellsville. And on behalf of the
4 council and the whole village, we
5 welcome this with open arms. It's going
6 to be a great opportunity for our
7 community. It -- like Nancy Francis
8 said, it's been a down spiral for so
9 long, and we're so hopeful that this
10 will help bring us back. Thank you to
11 the power company. Thank you.

12 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

13 Anyone else?

14 Someone just got shy, didn't want
15 to talk, remind everyone you can mail in
16 comments to the Board. The address is
17 on our web site. You can also submit
18 comments online, as well. Otherwise, at
19 this time the public hearing has
20 concluded. I really do want to that
21 everyone for coming out. The Board
22 enjoys having people involved in these
23 decisions, and they will take everything
24 I said into consideration. So thank you
25 and good night.

1 The State of Ohio,)
) SS: CERTIFICATE
 2 County of Cuyahoga.)

3 I, Katrina L. Dearborn, Notary Public within
 4 and for the State of Ohio, duly commissioned and
 5 qualified, do hereby certify that the within-
 6 named witnesses were first duly sworn to testify
 7 the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
 8 truth in the cause aforesaid; that the testimony
 9 then given by him/her was by me reduced to
 10 stenotypy in the presence of said witnesses,
 11 afterwards transcribed on a computer, and that
 12 the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of
 13 the testimony so given by him/her as aforesaid.

14 I do further certify that this arbitration
 15 was taken at the time and place in the foregoing
 16 caption specified and was completed without
 17 adjournment.

18 I do further certify that I am not a
 19 relative, employee of, or attorney for any of the
 20 parties in the above-captioned action; I am not a
 21 relative or employee of an attorney for any of
 22 the parties in the above-captioned action; I am
 23 not financially interested in the action; I am
 24 not, nor is the court reporting firm with which I
 25 am affiliated, under a contract as defined in
 Civil Rule 28(D); nor am I otherwise interested
 in the event of this action.

1 IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my
 2 hand and affixed my seal of office at Cleveland,
 3 Ohio on this 6th day of July, 2012.

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Katrina L. Dearborn, Notary Public
 In and for the State of Ohio.
 my commission expires 11-02-15.

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in

Case No(s). 15-1716-EL-BGN, 15-1717-EL-BTX

Summary: Transcript regarding South Field Energy, LLC. hearing held on 06/6/16
electronically filed by Ms. Donielle M Hunter on behalf of PUCO Staff