

FILE

Ohio Power Siting Board
LEEDCO Icebreaker Meeting
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PLUCO

To all concerned:

I am strongly opposed to LEEDCO's proposed icebreaker project in Lake Erie.

Wind turbines in Lake Erie would be extremely destructive and would serve no purpose except to make subsidy sucking energy companies such as LEEDCO even richer. Wind energy cannot be stored or regulated and adds nothing to the electrical power grid that must run at one hundred percent capacity at all times. It has a capacity factor of 0.

Studies have shown that turbines don't reduce fossil fuel emissions at all. On the contrary, turbines have to be backed up 100% of the time by traditional mostly fossil-fueled power plants because the wind must blow at the perfect speed for them to kick in - about 25% of the time. Would you buy a car that only works 25% of the time and you never knew when it would work or not?

LEEDCO has now become a subsidiary of Fred Olsen Renewables headquartered in Norway. They are licking their chops at the possibility of installing 1,700 turbines in Lake Erie starting with the Icebreaker project outside of Cleveland. They do not know or care about what Lake Erie means to the eleven million people who get their drinking water from the lake. The installation of these monstrous but ineffective energy sources on the lake floor would stir up now dormant layers of toxic substances from shipping lanes and past coastal industries. The vibration would ensure constant agitation of toxic settlements safely buried deep in a lake that was once called "dead" but is now thriving because of vigorous regulatory efforts.

Turbines in Lake Erie would create a whole new environmental disaster in the lake as turbine blades wear out in less than twenty years, especially in shallow Lake Erie where they will be pummeled by high winds, waves, pounding rain, and thick ice in the winter. Exploding and burning IWTs are becoming more commonplace as the numbers of IWTs increase, and when this occurs, there is no way to reach and extinguish them on an iced-over lake. As turbine blades burn, they create toxic emissions and blade throw can be lethal and catastrophic. Large, sharp blade segments have been known to be thrown up to a mile, some still burning.

If the hope is to eventually construct one thousand IWTs in Lake Erie, that is three thousand fiber carbon blades, up to 250 feet in length each, all at risk for toxic exploding, burning, and blade throw, trashing the lake! And in the best of circumstances, they ultimately age out. In Denmark with six thousand aging IWTs, and thus eighteen thousand aging blades, their leading business journal states, "A gigantic mountain of scrap blades is building up.... there exists no solution", as they can not be practically recycled and are too toxic to incinerate. Even onshore, damaged and rusting IWTs are

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increasing in number, now at least 4,500 in California alone, in spite of promises and plans for decommissioning! Is Lake Erie destined to become a toxic, filthy, burned out and rusting industrial junk yard? LEEDCo will promise that will not happen, but it does happen all too often, and it likely will!

I am from Pennsylvania. Because LEEDCO has invited Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper to sit on their board of directors, the implication is that turbines will be coming our way. That will not happen.

Pennsylvania is one of only three U.S. States that places citizens' environmental rights on a par with their political rights. Our environmental rights are secured in Section 27 of Article 1, the state Constitution's declaration of rights, which reads:

"The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic, and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all of the people, including generations to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people." Adherence to this constitutional right has held up in court against those who would exploit our land and water for personal financial gain.

That means that the 72-mile Pennsylvania shoreline is off limits to LEEDCO carpetbaggers. We Pennsylvanians have a constitutional right that our drinking water not be contaminated, that our millions of shorebirds and bats not be chopped to pieces by sharp blades, that our fish and waterbirds not be harmed by the noise, vibration, and pollution that would be caused by the underwater trenching necessary to set thousands of high-power electrical lines crisscrossing the lake floor. And that one of the most beautiful sunsets in the world be preserved for future generations.

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