

**From:** [Puco ContactOPSB](#)  
**To:** [Puco Docketing](#)  
**Subject:** 16-1871-EL-BGN  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 22, 2017 8:59:45 AM

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**From:** Pat Hersch [mailto:phersch@neo.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2017 3:44 PM  
**To:** Puco ContactOPSB <contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov>  
**Subject:** No turbines in Lake Erie

Ohio Power Siting Board:

The idea of installing wind turbines in Lake Erie is appalling.

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.

Fred Olsen Renewables from Norway has decided that Lake Erie could accommodate three thousand turbines!! What a nightmare from both an aesthetic and practical standpoint. The pounding waves from a shallow stormy lake will curtail the proposed 20 year life of these behemoths to only 14 or 15 years. And the truth of the matter is that they will never be removed from the lake once their "useful" life has expired. They will never be removed because at the present cost of \$200,000 to decommission a single turbine, it would be outrageously expensive. And who will admit to ownership after 15 years?

Three thousand turbines would produce nine thousand worn out and broken 250 foot blades that are too toxic to burn or recycle and will settle to the bottom of the lake creating an eco-junk disaster for generations to come.

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.

Robert Hersch  
535 Hilltop Road  
Erie, PA 16509

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**Case No(s). 16-1871-EL-BGN**

Summary: Public Comment in opposition filed on behalf of concerned consumer, Robert Hersch (originally filed 3/22/2017) electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing