

Public comment for 18-0488-EL-BGN

From: Kimberly Groth [<mailto:mikking@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Monday, April 30, 2018 9:59 PM
To: Puco ContactOPSB <contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov>
Subject: 18-0488-EL-BGN Seneca Wind Farm

I am writing as a resident of Bloom Township to urge that the Ohio Power Siting Board deny the pending application by sPower for a wind turbine project in Seneca County. My family has resided in Bloom Township over 14 years and we had no idea that numerous industrial wind turbines were planned for our neighborhood until we received a letter dated 3/27/2018 from the law firm of Bricker & Eckler that notified us of an information meeting hosted by sPower on 4/17/2018.

The April 17th meeting was very disappointing. It was crowded, chaotic, and provided very little information for the many concerned residents in attendance. After waiting in a long line in the parking lot for some time, we finally entered the conference room only to promptly hear an announcement that there would be no presentation and if we had picked up a copy of the map we were encouraged to leave and make room for others still waiting in line. Regrettably, due to the crowd and disorganization, I did not even realize until later that a representative of the Ohio Power Siting Board was present at this meeting.

Like many of my neighbors, I am extremely concerned by sPower's plans for this neighborhood. The map provided by sPower is very poor quality, but it appears to include 27 proposed turbine sites within 2 miles of my family's residence. Ohio's setback laws are woefully inadequate if they truly allow that many turbines in such a confined area. And I even more vehemently oppose any proposed changes that would decrease setbacks or measure setbacks from a residence rather than from property lines.

The Honey Creek area east of Melmore is among the most scenic and picturesque sections of Seneca County. My husband and I purchased our current home in 2009. We enjoy the quiet and peaceful setting, and the windows of our home are purposely curtain-free so that we can enjoy breathtaking sunrises, sunsets and clear starry night skies. In exchange for these blessings of country living, we accept spotty cell phone service, limited internet provider options, and the fact that ordering pizza means we will need to drive 15 minutes one-way to pick it up ourselves. sPower's proposed wind project, with shadow flicker, blinking red lights and constant noise, would mar the very qualities that drew us to this rural setting. In addition to these aesthetic concerns, I also worry about the safety, health and property value implications of living within a wind farm. Most of all, I am heartsick at the division this issue has already caused in our community.

It bothers me greatly that sPower and its predecessors have apparently been wooing local politicians and landowners for years, behind the backs of the vast majority of residents who would live in the shadow of these turbines. Decisions about a project that would have such a drastic impact should have included all affected residents from the very beginning. Instead, the proposed turbines closest to my residence were agreed to without my knowledge by a mega-farmer who lives over 30 miles away. I know sPower notified me of its April 17th meeting because it was required to do so by law. But the only things offered to me at that meeting were a confusing, poor quality map and the explicit message to leave almost as soon as I got in the door.

In closing, I respectfully urge that the OPSB listen to the concerns being voiced by property owners in this community, and that it oppose any further efforts by sPower to proceed with a wind farm project in Seneca County.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Groth
Bloomville, Ohio

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

5/1/2018 3:09:52 PM

in

Case No(s). 18-0488-EL-BGN

Summary: Public Comment electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing.