

FILE

18-0488-EL-BGN

To: The Ohio Power Siting Board
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

From: Steven P. Gitcheff
3717 So. State Route 67
Tiffin, Ohio 44883

I oppose Seneca Wind LLC (Docket # 18-0488-EL-BGN) from building in Seneca County.

It is my understanding that most of the wind turbines being proposed in Ohio are a costly ineffective source of intermittent energy and a waste of tax payer incentives. The 574 foot turbines proposed for our county could alter the natural flow of water due to the numerous sinkholes/karst flooding in our area and underground rivers. The ground will need to be blasted to secure these structures. Ground water contamination has occurred in other locations where industrial turbines have been installed with a similar geology.

There will be about 10 Non-union maintenance positions left after S-Power (Seneca Wind LLC) is done. It is shameful that the state won't assist Davis Besse to stay open with subsidies like they are giving these multinational wind companies. There are 706 good paying jobs at Davis Besse. There are another 2100 plus people working at First Energy Nuclear Plants. The truth is if we blanketed the entire state of Ohio with these giant turbines they still would not produce a fraction of the energy produced at Davis Besse alone! These projects don't provide the solid employment that props up the economy in the long run. We will sacrifice our natural resources, our property values, and our utility bills will go up just like they have in other states with numerous turbine projects that have to be paid for with our tax dollars and utility bills.

These turbines will strain the bat population which is already in decline. The bat is one of the few creatures we have lowering nuisance insect populations such as mosquitos naturally.

There is significant data indicating that property values decline significantly on average for homes within the proximity of these industrial turbines. Even at the current setback the noise pollution from these turbines will be significant and audible for over a mile away. I understand that some residents have experienced health issues from the infra-sound associated with these turbines.

It is my understanding that the wind industry is lobbying hard in Ohio to change the setback in order to allow these structures to be placed closer to parks, schools, wetlands, nature preserves, roadways and homes where their ice throws, noise and flickering shadow can not only be disruptive but dangerous. Surrounding states have much longer setbacks to ensure public safety. We have numerous buzzards, hawks, cranes, and even eagles in this area. What happens when that massive turbine throws one of those buzzards onto a park where our children are playing or through a school bus window? Placing these massive machines so close to roadways is a serious public hazard, much like a bridge falling into disrepair under which motorists pass under every day. Even a bat could cause serious injury to a pedestrian hit from nearly 600 ft. in the air. Please consider the following data concerning the distance the turbines can throw debris. **Ice Throws:** at 300 Ft. Turbine can throw ice 1700 ft.

<http://xray.rutgers.edu/~matilsky/windmills/throw.html>

It would be especially unfortunate if a person with special needs, seizures, or persons wearing hearing aides were in the nearby structures or parks.

This project not only lacks any regard for public safety but is dangerous. Any "billions of dollars" that the state/county hopes to gain will be lost in litigation over the obvious disregard for safety in planning such projects in densely populated areas like Seneca County. Even if the State further reduces the setback, litigation will follow as surrounding states have already established setbacks for safety that Ohio is willfully ignoring.

As the technology advances in other forms of energy, these industrial wind turbines will be seen in the future as a massive mistake. Our community leaders have been blinded to planning and foresight in an attempt to greedily grab taxpayer money.

Sincerely,

Steven P. Gitcheff
52 year Seneca County Resident

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