

Comment Received through Web. 18-1607-EL-BGN.

----- Original Message -----

From: Deb H [hayyou87@gmail.com]

Sent: 12/24/2018 8:07 AM

To: burke@ohiosenate.gov

Cc: gardner@ohiosenate.gov; contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov; rep55@ohiohouse.gov; rep57@ohiohouse.gov; manning@ohiosenate.gov; mccolley@ohiosenate.gov; rep88@ohiohouse.gov; rep30@ohiohouse.gov; rep89@ohiohouse.gov

Subject: Re: Unacceptable public hearing for Firelands Wind, case # 18-1607-EL-BGN

December 24, 2018

Sen. David Burke (Senate District 26)
Statehouse Room 034
1 Capital Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Senator Burke,

I am writing again with concern over the location of the public meeting for Firelands Wind (Emerson Creek, case # 18-1607-EL-BGN) as arranged and located by Apex Energy. Recent facts have come to light concerning the stark contrast between what Apex provided for local leaseholders and what they provided for the general public meeting.

As you probably know, the Administrative Rules for the Ohio Power Siting Board under 4906-3-03 provide for a Public Hearing before an application for an economically significant wind facility is filed. Section B states:

B) No more than ninety days prior to submitting a standard certificate application to the board, the applicant shall conduct at least one informational meeting open to the public to be held in the area in which the project is located. If substantial changes are made to the application after the informational meeting, the executive director of the board shall have the authority to require another informational meeting at his/her discretion.

On November 15, 2018 at 5:00 PM, I attended the public meeting in Norwalk for the aforementioned wind project. It was held at the Bronson Conservation Club southeast of Norwalk. According to the OPSB there were only two notices placed in newspapers, The Sandusky Register and The Norwalk Reflector. Unfortunately, the majority of the residents who live in the proposed Firelands Wind LLC read the Attica Hub. It is a smaller paper that highlights news specific to smaller communities such as Attica and Bellevue. Unfortunately, Apex did not choose to advertise their project in the news source that the majority of the residents would receive.

I attended a Groton township hall trustee meeting on December 20th, 2018, filled with residents expressing their concerns that they had not been informed of the proposed wind project in their township or of the public meeting held by Apex. Many expressed their concern that the public meeting was not even held near the project area and questioned why the meeting wasn't held in Bellevue. Apex was in attendance at this meeting and the representative for the project by the name of "Nate" was answering questions from the trustees and those in attendance. "Nate"

indicated that there were no venues available in the project area for the public meeting and that is why it was held in Norwalk. "Nate" encouraged those in attendance to contact the local venues such as the Bellevue VFW and confirm what he was saying. So, I made a few calls in the area. The following details are rather disturbing and further exemplify the disregard that Apex has for the general public.

On November 14th, 2018 in the evening Apex held a private meeting for the leaseholders of the wind project. It was held in Bellevue at the Bierkeller Restaurant/Hall, 600 Southwest St., Bellevue Ohio. The hall has a 235-room capacity. The hall rental fee is \$500 and 100 plates of food were ordered at \$21.50 per plate.

These wind energy companies continue to work in the dark of night. They make no serious attempt to educate the public and decline all offers to have an open public debate regarding these wind projects. The Seneca Anti-Wind Union would welcome the opportunity to debate them in a public forum. I would suggest that the OPSB add a local public debate to their schedule ahead of public hearings. Local opposition groups (stakeholders) should have the opportunity to debate them. Also, I suggest the OPSB require that public meetings be held in public venues such as schools or community centers which provide better visibility and access to the area residents.

I strongly feel the public meeting held by Apex on November 15th did not meet the standards for a public meeting as defined by regulation. This meeting did not meet the spirit of the law and appropriately engage the community without room for discrimination.

Because the residents in the targeted communities have no say in approving projects or how they will be sited, Wind Companies really do not think they need to be accountable to us or to take our concerns seriously. As I have stated previously, who would wish for a neighbor like that? Why should we have confidence in them?

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,
Deborah Hay
Resident of Bellevue and the proposed Republic Wind LLC

CC: Senator Randy Gardner (Erie County)
Senator Gayle Manning (Huron County)
Representative Nathan Manning (Huron County)
Senator Rob McColley (District 1)
Representative Bill Reineke (Seneca County)
Representative Dick Stein (Huron County)
Representative Steve Arndt (Erie County)
Representative Bill Seitz (Majority Floor Leader of the House)
Matt Butler (Ohio Power Siting Board)

On Sat, Nov 17, 2018 at 9:28 AM Deb H <hayyou87@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Senator Burke,

I am writing with grave concern for the manner in which the public meeting for Firelands Wind (Emerson Creek, case # 18-1607-EL-BGN) was conducted by Apex Energy.

As you probably know, the Administrative Rules for the Ohio Power Siting Board under 4906-3-03 provide for a Public Hearing before an application for an economically significant wind facility is filed. Section B states:

B) No more than ninety days prior to submitting a standard certificate application to the board, the applicant shall conduct at least one informational meeting open to the public to be held in the area in which the project is located. If substantial changes are made to the application after the informational meeting, the executive director of the board shall have the authority to require another informational meeting at his/her discretion.

On November 15, 2018 at 5:00 PM, I attended the public meeting in Norwalk for the aforementioned wind project. I was followed closely by Apex employees at this event. I assume it is because I have been vocal locally in opposition to the Republic Wind facility. I reside within the footprint of Republic in Thompson Township, Seneca County and a portion of my township will be in the footprint of Emerson Creek, as well. In addition, I have family in Huron County who could not attend the hearing and I had hoped to obtain information for them. I had many questions and concerns regarding this wind project.

At one point during the meeting I stopped to speak with a couple I knew from Erie County. I had opened my folder to make a note of the location of one of the turbines in that county. An Apex employee rushed at me and loudly stated "she is signing people up". I showed her what I had written on my folder but she (Apex employee) proceeded to insist that the sheriff deputies make me leave.

The sheriff deputies were polite and explained that because this was a private venue and Apex had rented it, Apex had the authority to make me leave. I questioned how this could be a public event, posted in the Sandusky Register, yet I could be discriminated against in this way. The officers explained that I had done nothing wrong and if it was a public venue, such as a school building, they would not have to make me leave. I did leave as the officers said they would have to charge me with trespassing if I did not leave at the request of Apex.

These wind energy companies have been working in the dark of night in our counties for years. They finally have a public event required by the OPSB, and they chose a private venue where I was not welcome.

I strongly feel this meeting did not meet the standards for a public meeting as defined by regulation. This meeting did not meet the spirit of the law and appropriately engage the community without room for discrimination. Preferably a public location such as a school or community center should be the meeting location.

I believe that my experience is just one more example of the disregard wind developers show toward the people in their targeted communities. Because we have no say in approving projects or how they will be sited, they really do not think they need to be accountable to us or to take our concerns seriously. And they can throw me out of a public meeting. Who would wish for a neighbor like that? Why should we have confidence in them?

Thank you for your kind consideration. The exchange which occurred between myself and the Apex employee/officers was recorded. You can view it at this link: [Apex Emerson Creek Public Meeting - 11-15-2018.MOV](#).

Sincerely,
Deborah Hay
14040 Twp. Rd 178
Bellevue, OH 44811

PH. 419-217-0043

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Deb

Members of the Ohio Power Siting Board, I implore you to listen to the residents of the area in the proposed Industrial Emerson Creek Wind Farm. My husband and children lived on US Route 20 for 20 years with all the semi traffic noise and pollution. Twenty Six years ago we decided to look for property in a surrounding rural area close to Bellevue. We found 3 1/4 acres 2 miles south of Bellevue and built our dream home. Now we have discovered that Apex wants to install many 655 foot tall INDUSTRIAL wind turbines in Lyme Township where we reside. Four of them will be visible from our back deck. This is not what we ever imagined for our golden years. Apex and the landowners they signed up to host these INDUSTRIAL turbines have been very clandestine in their dealings. They have not been forthcoming in informing EVERYONE that will be affected. How is it possible for them to do what they have been planning for years and we are only found out about it in May of 2018. And by accident, by the way. Claims they make are misleading. They claim property values will not be adversely affected, but the "Scientific Wind Study" they reference was done in 2013 when the tallest industrial turbine in the US was under 400 feet. The proposed turbines for this project are 655 feet. I would guess if they make an 800 foot turbine by the time this project would be started those would replace the proposed 655 feet. There is no way these turbines clustered so closely together in some areas will not have an effect on our property and home values. The INDUSTRIAL turbines have no place in populated rural areas. I would respectfully ask that you protect the homeowners in our area from these turbines that affect our health, welfare, wildlife and birds, beautiful landscapes and property values.

Respectfully,

Sally J. Norman

Bellevue, Ohio

Additional comment from Sally J. Norman to be filed in the case.

I previously sent an e-mail detailing why I oppose the Emerson Creek Wind Farm by Apex Clean Energy. I would like to amend my e-mail as I left out one very important aspect. Many of us rely on our wells for our water supply, and not only Emerson Creek Wind Farm , but also The number of turbines proposed for the Seneca County projects will most certainly affect our water supply adversely. We will most likely lose our water supply or have it contaminated due to disruption of the many underground supplies with the drilling and other construction aspects of the wind turbine erections. We are in an area already designated by the EPA as a "Drinking Water Source Protection Area for Community Public Water Systems using Ground Water with a High Susceptibility to Contamination and Water Quality Impacts". I hope that you also keep this in mind when making your decision concerning Apex Clean Energy's proposed Emerson Creek Wind Farm. Thank you Sally J. Norman
Bellevue, Ohio

Even though we live in the country, we really live in a residential setting. The 3 towers that are planned in Groton and Oxford Townships (Rt 99 2 east and 1 west) within a mile area are effecting over 41 houses. How dare anyone think they know what the majority want without ASKING us. We DO NOT want our homes to lose value, we don't want our well water tampered with, we live out here to enjoy the birds and wild life. We do NOT live out here to hear the noise of a wind turbine, see the monstrosity of a wind turbine and vibrations of a wind turbine. WE are paying taxes. Apex IS NOT PAYING TAXES. We live here. Apex DOES NOT live here.

Rosemary Clifford

I would like to express my extreme concern for this upcoming project of 85 wind turbines that are planned to be crammed into a rural area that has hundreds of single family residences. Where we live on Strecker Rd., in the NE portion of the project there are proposed to be 3 of these behemoth turbines..TALLER THAN THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT...that will be visible by no less than 40 HOMES. We didn't move/build out here to be thrust into a jungle of huge white towers with spinning propeller blades. Just the ruination of the serene landscape is argument enough to reject the placements of these turbines. There are PLENTY of areas off to the NW corner of the state where there is practically NO homes to affect. Then there is the very serious concern regarding the Bellevue Karst that many, if not most, of these turbines will be placed on. The risk of literally COLLAPSING the Karst is very real! Then there is the concern for water quality, and last but not least, with all the downward pressure imposed by these huge turbines and foundations, what may happen with the water's flow? We all know when you squeeze down on a wet sponge the water flows outward as far as it can go. You WILL run the risk of PERMANENT FLOODING of dozens upon dozens of homes within and no doubt even at the outer edges of this Karst. PLEASE, reject this proposal for the sake of thousands of hard working, tax paying citizens and dont let those who just "want the money" influence your decision. Thank you.

Tim & Tanja Wrenn

From: Jane Ruffing [janeruffing@gmail.com]
Sent: 1/2/2019 1:15 PM
To: contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov
Subject: Public Comment Ref Case #18-1607-EL-BGN

Dear OPSB Representative.

I am requesting that the attached letter be entered into the record as a public comment regarding Case #18-1607-EL-BGN.

Please let me know if there is any problem with executing this request.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Jane M. Ruffing

404 Brinker Street, #5
Bellevue, Ohio 44811

January 2, 2019

OPSB
Columbus, Ohio

Ref: Case #18-1607-EL-BGN (and related cases #17-2295-EL-BGN and #18-0488-EL-BGN)

Dear OPSB Members,

As a resident of Huron County, I am writing to express my grave concerns about the advancement of the Emerson Creek Wind Turbine Project in Huron, Seneca, and Erie Counties. Specifically, I am requesting that you listen to the voice of the majority of the residents in these affected areas and reject the application from Apex Clean Energy. The risks that accompany the wind turbine projects in the area far outweigh any perceived environmental or economic benefit that has been suggested.

Foremost of my concerns is the protection of the ground water system in the area. The Huron, Seneca, Erie, and Sandusky County quadrangle is home to the most concentrated Karst geology in the state of Ohio (The Bellevue-Castalia Karst Plain), and per the ODNR Division of Geological Survey, "...is believed to contain more sinkholes than any of Ohio's other karst regions." The ODNR has a great deal of information about this area and the **sensitivity of the ground water system to contamination**. Large scale excavation and construction, including deep anchor drilling, poses a major risk for contamination of the ground water for both city and rural residents. One cannot ignore the increased risk construction presents for flooding and property damage as was experienced in 2008:

<http://geosurvey.ohiodnr.gov/geologic-hazards/karst-geology/karst-mapping>
<http://geosurvey.ohiodnr.gov/portals/geosurvey/PDFs/Karst/karstmap.pdf>
<http://geosurvey.ohiodnr.gov/portals/geosurvey/PDFs/Karst/BellevueKarst2008.pdf>
http://geosurvey.ohiodnr.gov/portals/geosurvey/PDFs/OpenFileReports/OFR_2013-1.pdf

Additionally, the Ohio EPA has designated this four-county area a Drinking Water Projection Area. **As members of the OPSB, and as agencies that have the mission to protect Ohio's natural resources, it is incumbent on the ODNR and Ohio EPA to follow that mission and protect these areas from construction that clearly puts these zones at HIGH RISK.** Please vote to reject the Emerson Creek Wind Turbine Project as well as the Seneca Wind (#18-0488-EL-BGN), and Republic Wind (#17-2295-EL-BGN) turbine projects.

The suggestion that wind energy is clean energy is at best mis-leading and at worst outright untruthful. The construction of wind turbine arrays is completely dependent on the utilization of fossil fuel energy in the form of coal, oil, and natural gas that are required for the manufacturing of the steel, concrete, and polymers that make up the components of the wind turbine structures and interconnecting power line grid. Additionally, the vehicles used to transport the components as well as to construct the sites are, of course, entirely dependent on fossil fuels for their existence and operation. A few informative resources are as follows:

<https://spectrum.ieee.org/energy/renewables/to-get-wind-power-you-need-oil>
<https://www.spectator.co.uk/2017/05/wind-turbines-are-neither-clean-nor-green-and-they-provide-zero-global-energy/>

The mega-watt output of a wind turbine development is a fraction of the power that is generated by our existing electric generating plants. The amount of land and quantity of wind turbines that would be required to replace even one facility far exceeds logistical and physical reality and reasonable thinking. An operating wind turbine development will never fully replace any current technology electric generating plant because the wind turbine development is completely

reliant on these plants (coal fired, natural gas fired, nuclear powered) for back-up when the turbine system is not operating and in fact even when it is operating.

Some may say that wind energy is a cleaner alternative to nuclear energy due to the radioactive waste materials that are generated at our nuclear power plants. What they may not realize is that the wind power generators utilize a great deal of rare earth minerals. The processing of these materials into usable form creates radioactive waste. Our current, nuclear powered electric generating plants store radioactive waste in a highly controlled and safe manner. A reading of the following article should give us pause when considering the impact that rare earth mineral processing has on creating radioactive waste that is not safely contained:

<https://www.instituteeforenergyresearch.org/renewable/wind/big-winds-dirty-little-secret-rare-earth-minerals/>

The structures that are proposed in the four-county area are noted to be from 591 ft. to 655 ft. tall...some of the tallest, if not the tallest, in the entire country. For reference, the cooling tower at the Davis Besse Nuclear Power Plant is 493 ft. high. The cooling tower (not just the plume of water vapor) is easily visible from areas of Clyde and Bellevue. This is a good 22 – 25 miles distant (as the crow flies) depending on your vantage point. Now, imagine the four-county area with more than 150 wind turbines (as presently known) that jut into the sky 100 ft. to 150 ft. higher than the single Davis Besse structure. All will have red strobe lights forever marring the night sky. The beauty of our natural skyline, in any given direction, will be forever ruined and dominated by these towering structures.

Data from communities within Ohio, as well as the broader United States, Canada, and Europe, where wind turbine arrays have been constructed, indicates that property values have declined from 10% to 40% in these areas. It is not unreasonable to predict that property values in our area will do the same.

Other important considerations are the negative effects of infrasound and low frequency noise (ILFN), shadow flicker, audible noise under varying weather and wind conditions, and the impact to birds and bats that live in or migrate through our area. I hope that you have adequately acquainted yourself with reports and findings on these matters.

I am very concerned about the impartiality of several representatives at both the township and county level. The integrity of their representation has been compromised since they are compensated land lease holders, and/or work for industries that stand to receive a future financial gain from the advancement of this project. One trustee in Lyme Township is an employee of Apex Clean Energy, a clear and glaring conflict of interest. Professional as well as personal ethics mandate that these individuals should recuse themselves from ruling on these projects or perhaps even be subjected to recall by the voters they represent.

I appreciate your time in reviewing my rather lengthy letter and the information that can be found through the imbedded links. If you have any questions I can be contacted at janeruffing@gmail.com or at 313-850-8924 (cell). Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jane M. Ruffing

Jane M. Ruffing

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

1/2/2019 4:31:46 PM

in

Case No(s). 18-1607-EL-BGN

Summary: Public Comment (5) received via website electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing.