

Public comment 18-1607-EL-BGN

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**From:** Deb H [hayyou87@gmail.com]

**Sent:** 1/13/2019 8:31 PM

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**Subject:** Request for another public meeting for the Firelands Wind LLC

To: Angela Hawkins, Legal Director for the Public Utility Commission

I am writing to request that another public meeting for Firelands Wind (Emerson Creek, case # 18-1607-EL-BGN) be held. A public meeting that meets the regulation to have an informational meeting open to the public and held in the area in which the project is located.

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.

Recently, on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018, I attended a Groton Township Trustee meeting (just outside Bellevue). This meeting was attended by many residents expressing concern they had neither been informed of the proposed Firelands/Emerson Creek wind project in their township nor of the public meeting held by Apex on November 15th. 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 representatives were in attendance at the public informational meeting and one representative for the project by the name of "Nate" responded to questions from the trustees and those in attendance. "Nate" indicated that there were no venues available near 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 apparent disregard that Apex has for the general public.

On the evening of November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 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 participate in open public debate regarding the community impacts of their projects. The Seneca Anti-Wind Union would welcome the opportunity to debate them in a public forum. But at a minimum, the OPSB should 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. The meeting did not meet the spirit of the law, did not appropriately engage the community near the project footprint; and created a situation where a member of the public was denied equal access to the information provided at the meeting.

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 take our concerns seriously. As I have stated in previous public comments, who would wish for a neighbor like that? Why should we have confidence in them?

Thank you for your kind consideration. I look forward to your response Ms. Hawkins. The exchange which occurred between me and the Apex employee/officers was recorded. You can view it at this link: [Apex Emerson Creek Public Meeting - 11-15-2018.MOV](http://dis.puc.state.oh.us/TiffToPDf/A1001001A19A02B63147H00332.pdf) .

This letter and attached video may be posted in public comments for the OPSB. Links to previous comments on the OPSB can be found at:

<http://dis.puc.state.oh.us/TiffToPDf/A1001001A19A02B63147H00332.pdf>

<http://dis.puc.state.oh.us/TiffToPDf/A1001001A18K21A81645F03156.pdf>

<http://dis.puc.state.oh.us/TiffToPDf/A1001001A18L05B63906F00726.pdf>

Sincerely,

Deborah Hay  
Resident of Bellevue and the proposed Republic Wind LLC

CC: Senator Nathan Manning (Huron County)  
Senator Rob McColley (District 1)  
Senator David Burke (Seneca-Sandusky County)  
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)

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities**

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

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