

Public comment 18-1607-EL-BGN

From: Krista Beck [krista.l.beck@gmail.com]

Sent: 1/23/2019 5:12 PM

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Subject: Unacceptable Procedures Regarding Firelands Wind, case # 18-1607-EL-BGN

Dear Senators and Representatives,

I emailed a few of you recently in regards to my opposition of the proposed Emerson Creek Wind Project in Erie, Huron, and Seneca counties. This letter is to share a few more legal concerns that I have regarding the integrity and ethical practices of Apex Clean Energy and its subsidiary, Firelands Wind, LLC.

It is amazing that Apex proudly touts itself as having been "active in the Emerson Creek Project area since 2009" while none of us non-leaseholder landowners knew anything about such project until the public informational meeting on November 15, 2008. And actually, most of us knew nothing of that meeting!

The Administrative Rules for the Ohio Power Siting Board, under 4906-3- 03,Section B states:..." 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.

If Apex would have followed this rule, they would have had the informational meeting in Bellevue-the city that the entire project is closest to. An Apex representative later told us that there was no available meeting space in Bellevue, or any closer area on that Wednesday night, November 15. However, Bellevue City Schools have 3 large school buildings and any of those would have provided plenty of space. Instead, they chose to have the meeting 14 miles away. I do not believe this constitutes the intentions of the Rule, "to be held in the area..the project is located" and I do not believe Apex carried out its due diligence in providing those of us who live in the project footprint a chance to be informed. So, because I believe it is within our rights to request another meeting with Apex in the city of Bellevue, I would like to make that request official.

Side note-the night before the informational meeting in Norwalk, Apex hosted a paid per plate dinner meeting with their leaseholders in Bellevue!

Actually, there are many residents in both Erie and Huron counties that are just now finding out about this project because of the huge social media blitz we have done.

Also, in regards to informing the public...

On October 28, 2018 , on the OPSB website, a "Notice of Compliance with Service Requirement" was electronically filed by Christine M.T. Pirik on behalf of Firelands Wind, LLC.

This filing read, "**Pursuant to Rule 4906-3-03(B)(2) of the Ohio Administrative Code**, Firelands Wind, LLC files notice that **it has complied with the service requirement set forth in this rule. In accordance with this rule, a letter was sent to the property owners and tenants affected by this facility notifying them of the November 15, 2018 public information meeting.** As required, service was sent by first class mail on October 25, 2018, at least 21 days before the meeting.

What has been most astounding to me is the number of adjacent landowners who knew nothing about this project, and have stated that they never received such notification from Apex regarding the informational meeting- or anything else about said project. When questioned about this at 2 different township meetings, Apex representatives simply said they were sorry, and "it must have been a mix up in the mail delivery system." I believe this to be a total falsehood. I can understand a few mailings can be lost...but dozens? Perhaps even more?

Apex has been anything but open, honest, or transparent in their dealings with anyone that is not a leaseholder. Their business practices are full of deceit and disguise. They form alliances with township trustees and commissioners behind the backs of the citizens, and all agreements are covered in a shroud of secrecy. Then when the plan is slowly revealed to the public, they tell us that they "really do care about our concerns for our community." Their storefront in Bellevue has nothing to offer any resident who goes in and asks for maps, information of the project, etc. Visitors to the office are told it's "only for the leaseholders." What kind of business runs that way?

I ask that you Senators and Representatives stand by us, your constituents, and help us rid our area- and then the whole state of Ohio- of these Big Wind Goliaths who can only survive with government subsidies in the guise of "production tax credits."

The Fourteenth Amendment guarantees us – through our implied rights ... the right to establish a home and bring up children in the area we choose (my girls are the 7th generation of my family to be born and raised in Groton Township/Erie County)... to live on the land that we have purchased with our life savings...the right to live in and enjoy the homes that we have worked hard for... the right to live in the communities that are filled with our friends and families..and the right to enjoy the beauty, solitude, and simplicity of living in rural Ohio... without fear of Industrial Wind Turbines negatively impacting our enjoyment, economy, environment, and health for generations to come.

Wind Energy is a wicked, political behemoth. Please fight with us and for us! I will gladly fight alongside of you-as will many of my neighbors!

Thank you for your time and deliberate consideration of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Krista Beck

Krista B

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in

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

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