

**BEFORE  
THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD**

In the Matter of the Application of Paulding Wind )  
Farm IV LLC for a Certificate of Environmental )  
Compatibility and Public Need to Construct a )  
Transmission Line in Paulding County, Ohio. )  
)

Case No. 18-1293-EL-BTX

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**TESTIMONY OF**

**Erin Bowser**

**on behalf of**

**Paulding Wind Farm IV LLC**

**March 8, 2019**

1       **1. Please state your name.**

2       Erin Bowser.

4       **2. Please state your business address.**

5       129 East Market Street, Suite 1200, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.

7       **3. Please summarize your educational background and professional experience.**

8       In 1997, I graduated from Clarion University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History  
9       and Political Science and subsequently received a Master's Degree in Political Science  
10      from Ohio University. From 1998-2008 I worked for various non-profit public policy  
11      advocacy organizations including Environmental Ohio, where I was the Executive  
12      Director from 2003-2008.

14      **4. By whom are you employed?**

15      I am employed by EDP Renewables North America LLC ("EDP Renewables"), which is  
16      the parent company for Paulding Wind Farm IV, LLC ("Applicant"). My initial role  
17      with EDP Renewables was as a Project Manager responsible for advancing the  
18      development of wind farm projects in Ohio and throughout the Eastern Region of EDP  
19      Renewables.

21      **5. What is your current position?**

22      Director of Project Management for EDP Renewables.

24      **6. What is your role in this Application before the Ohio Power Siting Board?**

25      As the Director of Project Management, I oversee wind and solar renewable energy  
26      projects from late stage development efforts through construction and into operations.  
27      Since 2008, I have overseen the development and construction of five wind farm projects  
28      totaling 682 megawatts ("MWs") currently in operations in Ohio, Indiana, and New  
29      York. I was involved in all aspects of the previous Paulding Wind Farm wind-power  
30      generation facilities certificated by the Ohio Power Siting Board ("Board") and built in  
31      Ohio by EDP Renewables (Case Nos. 09-980-EL-BGN and 10-369-EL-BGN) and have

32 been involved in all aspects of the Applicant's wind farm ("Timber Road IV Wind  
33 Farm") that was recently certified by the Board (Case No. 18-91-EL-BGN). I have also  
34 been involved in all aspects of the Applicant's Transmission Line Project ("Project") that  
35 is proposed by the Applicant in this case. From land acquisition to environmental studies  
36 to engineering and construction planning, I am familiar with all aspects of the Project  
37 development.

38  
39 **7. Please state the purpose of your testimony.**

40 The purpose of my testimony is to provide a summary of the Project and a description of  
41 the process that led to the joint stipulation and recommendation ("Stipulation"), which  
42 was filed in the docket on March 8, 2019, and is being offered in this proceeding as Joint  
43 Exhibit 1. I will sponsor the admission of the Stipulation into evidence in this case, along  
44 with the Applicant's exhibits listed in the Stipulation, which include the Application and  
45 supplement, certificates of service, and proofs of publication. I intend to explain the  
46 background of the Stipulation and the reasons why I believe it should be adopted by the  
47 Board. In addition, my testimony will confirm that the Stipulation complies with the  
48 Board's three-part test for evaluating stipulations.

49  
50 **8. Please provide a summary and description of the Project.**

51 As described in detail in the Application, which was filed in this case on October 17,  
52 2018, as supplemented and clarified on February 1, and 5, 2019 ("Application"), the  
53 Project consists of a 2.9-mile 138 kilovolt transmission line and associated laydown yard  
54 in Paulding County, Ohio. The Project is associated with the Timber Road IV Wind  
55 Farm in Paulding County. The primary purpose of the Project is to deliver up to 75.9  
56 MW of clean, renewable electricity generated by the Timber Road IV Wind Farm from  
57 the wind farm's collection substation to the existing Logtown substation, point of  
58 interconnection, via the existing Timber Road III Transmission Line.

59  
60 The preferred route for the Project was selected because it was determined to be the most  
61 efficient way to deliver electricity generated by the Timber Road IV Wind Farm to the  
62 regional power grid. In addition, the preferred route also had less environmental and

63 social impacts, and will be less costly. Thus, after taking all factors into consideration,  
64 following discussions with local officials and taking into consideration landowner  
65 preferences, the Applicant determined that the location of the preferred route for the  
66 Project is ideal.

67  
68 **9. Please provide the background concerning the discussions leading up to the**  
69 **Stipulation.**

70 The Board's Staff ("Staff") issued a Staff Report of Investigation on February 15, 2019  
71 ("Staff Report"). A local public hearing was subsequently held at the Ohio State  
72 University Extension Building in Paulding, Ohio on March 5, 2019. The Stipulation,  
73 which was signed by the Applicant, Staff, and the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation  
74 ("OFBF"), was filed on March 8, 2019. The evidentiary hearing is scheduled to  
75 commence March 19, 2019, at the offices of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.

76  
77 In my opinion, Staff completed its investigation process seamlessly. The Applicant did  
78 not detect any major issues or hurdles during Staff's investigation of the Application. We  
79 do not have concerns with the Staff Report and our proposed Stipulation revisions related  
80 to minor refinement of condition language. Note that the OFBF is the only intervenor in  
81 this case and has been involved in the development of and discussions regarding the  
82 Stipulation.

83  
84 **10. Did you encounter any objections to the Project from the officials in the area?**

85 No. The Applicant has been working in Paulding County and meeting with landowners  
86 regarding the Paulding Wind Farm facilities for over ten years. Throughout this time, we  
87 have formed strong relationships with local landowners, as well as county officials.

88  
89 **11. Why do you believe the Stipulation should be adopted by the Board?**

90 In my opinion, the Stipulation is a reasonable, good faith settlement that resulted from  
91 thoughtful negotiations among capable, knowledgeable parties to the case. Not only does  
92 the Stipulation address all questions that have been expressed by the parties, but, in  
93 addition, the stipulated conditions ensure that the Project will serve the public interest.

The Applicant estimates that construction and operation of the Project, as well as the Timber Road IV Wind Farm, will increase employment in the area. Moreover, we expect the Project to have a significant positive impact on the local tax base, including local school districts and other taxing districts that serve the Project area. Assuming an estimated nameplate capacity of 75.9 MWs, the increase in local tax revenues could be as much as \$683,100 annually for the facility.

Finally, as a package, the Stipulation benefits ratepayers and the public interest, providing enormous economic benefits to the surrounding local community. In so doing, the Stipulation package does not violate any regulatory principle or practice. As such, we believe the Stipulation should be adopted by the Board.

**12. Do you have any other comments?**

Yes. The Applicant is appreciative of the efforts the Staff has made in processing this Application and culminating in the issuance of the February 15, 2019 Staff Report. In addition, the Applicant would like to thank the OFBF for its participation in the case, as well as local community leaders in Paulding County, and the community itself for all of their participation in this process.

**13. Does this conclude your testimony?**

Yes.

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The Ohio Power Siting Board's e-filing system will electronically serve notice of the filing of this document on the parties referenced in the service list of the docket card who have electronically subscribed to this case. In addition, the undersigned certifies that a copy of the foregoing document is also being served upon the persons listed below via electronic mail this 8<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2019.

/s/ Christine M.T. Pirik

Christine M.T. Pirik (0029759)

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Summary: Testimony of Erin Bowser electronically filed by Christine M.T. Pirik on behalf of Paulding Wind Farm IV LLC