

BEFORE THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD

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In the Matter of the :
Application of Hardin :
Solar Energy II, LLC, for :
a Certificate of :
Environmental :
Compatibility and Public : Case No. 18-1360-EL-BGN
Need to Construct an :
Electric Generation :
Facility in Hardin County, :
Ohio. :

- - -

PROCEEDINGS

before Ms. Megan Addison, Administrative Law Judge,
at the Kenton High School, 200 Harding Avenue,
Kenton, Ohio, called at 6:10 p.m. on Thursday,
March 14, 2019.

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1 APPEARANCES:

2 Dickinson Wright, PLLC
3 By Ms. Christine M.T. Pirik
4 and Mr. Will Vorys
5 150 East Gay Street, Suite 2400
6 Columbus, Ohio 43215

7 On behalf of the Applicant.

8 The Ohio Farm Bureau Federation
9 By Mr. Dale Arnold
10 280 North High Street
11 Columbus, Ohio 43215

12 On behalf of the Ohio Farm Bureau
13 Federation.

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1 Thursday Evening Session,
2 March 14, 2019.

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4 ALJ ADDISON: Let's go ahead and go on
5 the record.

6 The Ohio Power Siting Board has assigned
7 for hearing at this time and place Case No.
8 18-1360-EL-BGN being in the Matter of the Application
9 of Hardin Solar Energy II, LLC, for a Certificate of
10 Environmental Compatibility and Public Need Issued to
11 Construct an Electric Generation Facility in Hardin
12 County, Ohio.

13 My name is Megan Addison. I am the
14 Administrative Law Judge assigned by the Power Siting
15 Board to hear this case. There are also Staff
16 members from the Ohio Power Siting Board, Matt Butler
17 and James O'Dell, present this evening. They will be
18 available if you have any questions concerning the
19 Application or any other general questions you may
20 have regarding the Ohio Power Siting Board. Please
21 feel free to approach them at the completion of the
22 evening's -- of this evening's hearing.

23 At this time I will take formal
24 appearances of the parties, beginning with the
25 Applicant.

MS. PIRIK: Thank you, your Honor. On behalf of Hardin Solar Energy II, the law firm of Dickinson Wright, Christine Pirik and Will Vorys, 150 East Gay Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

ALJ ADDISON: Thank you.

MR. ARNOLD: Thank you, your Honor. On behalf of the Ohio Farm Bureau, party of record in this case, my name is Dale Arnold, D-A-L-E A-R-N-O-L-D, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, Director of Energy, Utility, and Local Government Policy, 280 North High Street, Columbus, Ohio.

HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

The subject of today's hearing is Hardin Solar Energy II's October 12, 2018, Application as supplemented on November 14, 2018, to construct a solar-powered electric generation facility in Marion, Roundhead, and McDonald Townships in Hardin County, Ohio.

The project -- the project would be the second phase of the Hardin Solar Energy Center and would consist of numerous ground-mounted solar panels on approximately 3,297 acres of land. It also includes a battery storage facility. The panels will have a capacity to generate up to 170 megawatts of electricity.

1 The Power Siting Board Staff filed a
2 report in this case on February 26, 2019. After
3 conducting an investigation and review, Staff gave a
4 recommendation to allow the project to proceed
5 subject to several conditions. Staff's Report serves
6 only as a recommendation to the Board, but the Board
7 still has the final decision.

8 This public hearing is only one aspect of
9 the process for this case. An evidentiary hearing is
10 scheduled for March 28, 2019, which will take place
11 at the offices of the Public Utilities Commission of
12 Ohio in Columbus, Ohio. The Application and the
13 Staff Report are available for review on the Power
14 Siting website under the case number of this case.

15 The purpose of this hearing is to receive
16 comments from the public regarding the Application in
17 this case. I will emphasize that this is not a
18 question and answer session. It is your opportunity
19 to let the Power Siting Board know what you think
20 about the proposal. There are representatives from
21 the Company and Staff members from the Power Siting
22 Board who I've already pointed out tonight who are
23 available for questions after the hearing.

24 Tonight's hearing is being transcribed by
25 a court reporter. If you plan to testify, please

1 speak clearly so that the court reporter can
2 accurately reflect your comments on the record. Also
3 if you have prepared a written statement, it would be
4 helpful to provide a copy of that to the court
5 reporter as well.

6 When you arrived, you were offered the
7 opportunity to sign up to testify by Staff. I'll
8 finish my introductory remarks and I'll begin calling
9 witnesses forward that have signed the sign-up sheet
10 and I believe, if we can speak loudly enough, you can
11 just simply stand where you are seated. As long as
12 the court reporter can hear your remarks, there's no
13 need to move in the room.

14 Your testimony will be considered part of
15 the official record in this case, and it will be
16 reviewed by the Board before they make their final
17 decision on the application. Additionally, the
18 parties in the case and I will be permitted to ask
19 you questions about your statement. Please answer
20 these questions to the best of your ability.

21 Should you decide that you do not want to
22 testify when I call your name, you can merely pass to
23 the next witness. Also once you finish testifying or
24 if you are just here to observe, you may leave at any
25 time you wish or stay until the conclusion of the

1 hearing.

2 And with that I will begin calling the
3 names. Tim Striker.

4 MR. STRIKER: Yes, ma'am.

5 HEARING OFFICER: Would you like to
6 testify this evening?

7 MR. STRIKER: Can I just make a comment?

8 HEARING OFFICER: If I could swear you in
9 really quickly, you can make your comment on the
10 record.

11 (Witness sworn.)

12 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. You may
13 make your comment.

14 MR. STRIKER: Okay. I'm Tim Striker,
15 Hardin County Commissioner, just standing in myself
16 personally in support of this project and wishing it
17 to go forward, and I think it's a great opportunity
18 for Hardin County so. If any -- that's it.

19 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you very much,
20 Mr. Striker.

21 Any questions?

22 MS. PIRIK: No questions.

23 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

24 MR. ARNOLD: No questions, your Honor.

25 HEARING OFFICER: That is the only name

1 that I have on the sign-up sheet. Are there any
2 other individuals present at tonight's hearing that
3 would like to provide a statement on the record at
4 this time?

5 MR. VAN DYNE: Yes, I would.

6 HEARING OFFICER: Please, if you could
7 just raise your right hand, sir.

8 (Witness sworn.)

9 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Please just
10 state your name and your address for the record.

11 MR. VAN DYNE: Well, my name is Charles
12 Van Dyne. I live at 4794 County Road 80 which is in
13 Marion Township.

14 I happen to be in the northern part of it
15 where I'm not affected by this project. Now, what I
16 am going to say I realize has absolutely nothing, no
17 bearing upon what this decision is going to be
18 because, in my opinion, it's already been determined.

19 This ground that we're speaking of is
20 going to be subjected to a solar energy project, but
21 I am -- I am speaking just as a citizen of Hardin
22 County, a resident very close to the project. And I
23 am deeply saddened to see some of the prime land in
24 Hardin County, some of the very best land in Hardin
25 County for farming purposes taken out of production

1 for probably the balance of many years, many, 20, 40
2 years, maybe forever. And it's such a shame as I
3 view it as a citizen. Why not locate this type of
4 facility in a less productive agricultural area than
5 taking our prime land and taking it out of farm
6 production?

7 Now, all I am really doing is simply
8 stating my own personal opinion and I have been
9 opposed to this project since the first day I've
10 heard of it and so tonight was an opportunity that I
11 have in expressing my opinion and I thank you for the
12 opportunity.

13 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you very much.

14 Any questions?

15 MS. PIRIK: No questions, your Honor.

16 MR. ARNOLD: No questions, your Honor.

17 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Thank you
18 very much for your testimony.

19 Are there any other individuals that
20 would like to provide a statement at this time?

21 Seeing no one else, I would like to thank
22 everyone for coming here this evening. This will
23 conclude this evening's public hearing and it will be
24 submitted on the record for the Board's consideration
25 of this case. Staff and I will be here for a little

1 while after the conclusion of this hearing in the
2 event you have any questions about the Power Siting
3 Board's process or how to file additional comments in
4 this case.


5 Thank you again and have a very nice
6 evening, everyone. We are adjourned.

7 (Thereupon, at 6:19 p.m., the hearing was
8 adjourned.)

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10 CERTIFICATE

11 I do hereby certify that the foregoing is
12 a true and correct transcript of the proceedings
13 taken by me in this matter on Thursday, March 14,
14 2019, and carefully compared with my original
15 stenographic notes.

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17 
18 Karen Sue Gibson, Registered
19 Merit Reporter.

20 (KSG-6711)

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This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

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in

Case No(s). 18-1360-EL-BGN

Summary: Transcript In the Matter of the Application of Hardin Solar Energy II, LLC, for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need to Construct an Electric Generation Facility in Hardin County, Ohio, hearing held on March 14th, 2019. electronically filed by Mr. Ken Spencer on behalf of Armstrong & Okey, Inc. and Gibson, Karen Sue Mrs.