

From: [Ohio Power Siting Board](#)
To: [Puco Docketing](#)
Subject: comment 18-1334 [ref:_00Dt0GzXt._500t0GHZ3m:ref]
Date: Monday, March 25, 2019 11:51:11 AM
Attachments: [Solar Power testimony From Mark Edenfield.pdf](#)

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Dawn Edenfield [dedenfield1@cinci.rr.com]
Sent: 3/25/2019 10:18 AM
To: contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov
Subject: Solar Power testimony From Mark Edenfield

To whom it may concern,

Please see the attachment for my letter.

Thanks,

Mark Edenfield



ref:_00Dt0GzXt._500t0GHZ3m:ref

MARK EDENFIELD INC.

Mark and Dawn Edenfield
4283 Sorg Road
Hillsboro, Ohio 45133
Telephone 937-288-2734
Fax 937-288-2575

March 25, 2019

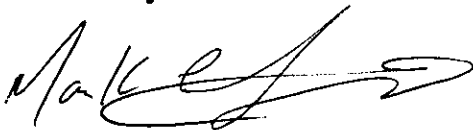
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio/
Ohio Power Siting Board

RE: Highland Solar Farm
18-1334-EL-BGN

To whom it may concern

My name is Mark Edenfield I am writing you today in reference to the hearing on March 19, 2019. First of all I would like to apologize for not being able to give my testimony the night of the hearing. The hearing was running a little too late and I had other obligations. I am hoping you could still take in consideration my testimony. I have lived in this community for 56 years as a farmer and an owner of a construction company. I believe that the Solar Farm will be beneficial to the community in helping support the cost of living and the growth of the community. With the changes of the world today I believe the solar farm would help our community to move forward into the future. In closing I believe the solar farm would be a great asset to the community. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Edenfield', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Edenfield

March 20, 2019

William D. Partin

2205 State Route 134

Sardinia, Ohio 45171

Reference: Docket Case Number 18-1334-EL-BGN

I attended a public meeting at 6:00 P.M., at the school in, Mowrystown, Ohio. The subject matter was a proposed solar energy farm that would take approximately 3,400 acres of prime farm land. I did not speak at the meeting because I wanted to here the pros and cons of the various speakers. To be fair, my son Mark Partin was one of the speakers and I already knew what he thought of the proposed solar farm, because of the proximity to his residence. I also knew that he was representing 275 people that had asked him to speak on their behalf.

I am a retired Vice President of two large packaging companies and although I am not a farmer, I have a good understanding of the farming industry and the economic impact farming has on almost everyone living in this country and in other countries as well. My experience is with a company for 27 years that supplied cans to large farmers that packed fruits and vegetables in cans. I also served as a Vice President in a company that produced glass jars, that was also used to pack various foods. In my position, I had to understand the various seasonal aspects that might affect my companies' revenue stream. Weather, types of soil in various regions across the country, yields, which on any given year could mean a good or bad year for my company.

As I indicated earlier, I am not a farmer, I live approximately a mile or maybe two, from the proposed site. MY home is situated on 18 acres, which is farmed by one of the principle land owners that will be involved in the Solar project. Having the business back ground that I have, I have the tendency to view the professional way a meeting of this type is conducted. I also realize the importance of looking forward and embracing change. I also know the difference between what is legal and what is right and wrong. If my son had not been aware of the project, I doubt, I would have known anything about this project until the equipment was moved in to start the project. In my opinion, that seemed wrong to me? How many of my neighbors in the community also did not know, and still don't?

My first impression, after entering the school at approximately 5:30 P.M., was that there was a group of people standing in the hall, but no obvious person or persons that could guide me to what I should do next? Since I was with my son, he knew that he needed to sign in if he was to speak. However, when he asked a lady where he was to sign up to speak, she said that her staff had not arrived yet and they would announce when to sign up to speak. There was announcement at approximately 6:00 P.M., that you could sign up in the hall just outside the gymnasium. I may be being a little picky? However, I thought this was less than professional. Having lawyers and professional business executives allowing this type of organization to meet with the public was less than professional!

There was a hand out that gave some basic rules as to how each speaker was to conduct themselves and that the appointed judge would referee each speaker, to keep each speaker on topic and try to monitor

the time as each speaker spoke. The following is my general notes as to how the meeting went and how it was conducted by the people in charge.

I attempted to record each speaker as they talked and keep the time that each speaker took for their speech. These are not exact times, but very close. I indicated in my notes, as to whether they were against or for the project. However, as each speaker came up to talk, I realized that several speakers were from the same family and the number of speakers for or against may not represent correctly the public opinion. I also did not write down everyone's general comments, because most were short and to the point as to how they felt about the project. By my count, there were 30 people that spoke? I may have missed one? The amount of time each person spoke, ranged from 30 seconds to 28 minutes, for an average of about 4.7 Minutes per speaker.

The first three speakers took 38 minutes, and 28 minutes of the 38 minutes was one speaker. Most of the comments did not pertain to the project. The judge did not intervene until he was called upon to abide by the rules in the handout given to the audience prior to the meeting. Again, I was not impressed with the professionalism of the group in charge of the meeting. Having the audience to remind the judge of the rules, just added more negative feelings in the room.

The rest of the meeting went well, except for a speaker prior to his speech, indicated he was speaking for 275 people, which had asked him to speak for them, and that he had signed signatures of those 275 people voicing their concerns about the project. He also asked the judge to allow him some time to express those people's concerns. After 22 minutes, the judge asked him to rap it up, which was the right thing to do! However, it appeared as though the judge was getting even with this speaker who called him out earlier for not intervening during an earlier 28-minute speech. The speech ended up taking 24 minutes. However, in the interest of "Transparency", which seems to be the word our politicians use, it was my son who was speaking for the 275 people. For those who would say I am defending him, I can only point out that the speech he gave was all his doing. He doesn't need me to defend his opinion! A 24-minute speech for 275 people is equal to 5.2 seconds per person, which is far less than the average of all the speakers at the meeting.

As to my own opinion on the proposed solar farm, I am leaning against it! Mainly because I feel it will devalue my property, which I have owned for 30 plus years. At the age of 71, my property is part of my savings account for me and my wife's retirement and inheritance for our three children. I believe that if there was a solar farm in the proposed area 30 years ago, I probably would not have purchased the home that I currently live in. I question the economic impact, safety aspects, water runoff, and harm that may come to birds, animals, insects, and certain plant life? However, I do not have enough information to agree or disagree with what is currently conveyed? I am also concerned about promises that are being made concerning the fencing and overall appearance once built and maintained after the project is complete.

The last thing that I will say, is that I believe that this project like a lot of projects was kept from the general public eye! Admitted testimony at the meeting on March 20, 2017, it was admitted that there were discussions with certain people of the community as far back as 2015. This hints of some deceit or fear that the general public may rally to stop the project before it gets started. I was told by representatives of the company spearheading this project, that it was put in papers, on the internet, and in libraries so that people would be aware? How many people read the papers today? How many frequent the library for this type of information? How many use the internet, specifically looking for a

solar farm being considered in their community? This, in my opinion, is not enough! It May be legal? However, it is not right! A lot of talk about the benefits for the county and state, as if the people in this part of the state don't matter? I believe that our elected officials have become untrustworthy! I will admit, I voted for Donald Trump, not because I like him, but because I believe that he was the only way that we the public could lite a fire under our representatives, both Democrats and Republicans. I also believe this to be true of our local representatives "We the people", are losing our voice, due to legal manipulation and behind closed-door decisions by people that do not have to experience the fallout from the decisions they make. Make no mistake, this project may be good for the country, state, county, and townships, but it is profit that drives a project like this! I honestly believe that had the people in the community had been informed early on, there would be less resistance today!

Why is there a reluctance to send out notices to the public about this project? Kroger, Kohls, and other businesses flood my mail box every week with advertisements. Why not accommodate a delay, as some speakers asked for, in order to inform the public properly? Have more than one meeting in different parts of the county, to accommodate more people attendance, in order to ask questions and get answers. The comment that this project only will affect only 1% of the farm land as if it were insignificant. The cost of giving the public a fair notice is probably far less than 1% of the cost of this project?

Thank You



William D. Partin

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

3/25/2019 4:39:17 PM

in

Case No(s). 18-1334-EL-BGN

Summary: Public Comment (2) received via website electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing.