

FILE

18-1607-EL-BGN

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April 12, 2019

Members, *Norothy Pelanda*
The Ohio Power Siting Board
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

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Re: Emerson Creek Wind Farm, 18-1607-EL-BGN

When I retired to my ancestral acres in Lyme Township, Huron County, I was looking over my shoulder for the frackers and the pipeline purveyors. I never thought I'd have to worry about Big Wind, but here it comes, in the name of Apex (and many other corporate designations).

After 50 years in Cleveland, I intended to enjoy rural living again. Huron County may not have the population of Cuyahoga, but it is not unpopulated, and I'd like to think that every Ohio resident is important. The layout of this project sprawls from north to south in a narrow line, thereby impacting the maximum number of people.

This proposed project has divided the community. Those who signed up for the money either didn't or couldn't (because of financial need) consider what they were doing to their neighborhoods. One of those lives near me. He has been quoted publicly as saying what a great project this is and acknowledges that he will gain \$18-20,000 per year. What does his gain mean for my property values? I have never heard a counter to the argument that property values fall when wind turbines appear. He gains, and I lose.

My impression of this Project is that Big Wind blew in, cozied up to elected officials, promised money for the schools and the counties, signed up leaseholders, and only then held a public meeting. A woman was ejected from a public meeting on false pretenses and a "do-over" of the meeting was demanded

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by state elected officials. Big Wind has an attitude that I despise—that it has a "done deal," and those of us who question the Project should just shut up.

Being a semi-retired lawyer and law librarian, I have trolled through the 5,350 pages of the Application and Supplement filed by Apex. I will say that it is thorough and that Apex appears to have done its homework, often drawing on the findings of many of our Ohio agencies in preparing the application. What is not available in all of these pages is the financial information behind this Project; in fact, what little financial information appears is redacted. My own research has shown that without substantial government subsidies and tax abatements, these projects would not exist.

Another item I looked for but did not find was the Project's duties upon digging into an Indian burial ground. Erie and Huron counties have many Indian burials. In a field very near my house, about 12 years ago, the landowner wanted to sell some topsoil. However, when digging unearthed an Indian burial, the digging was halted. I want to know specifically what Apex will do when it hits one of these burials, either individual or group.

As a last thought, please consider the loss of Ohio farmland. Ohio's Department of Agriculture has a Farmland Preservation Office. To quote from the Office's website: **Between 1950 and 2000, Ohio lost more than 6.9 million acres of farmland, representing nearly one-third of Ohio's agricultural land.** The cement bases that hold the turbines take up an enormous amount of space underground. Once they go in, that land is lost to farming forever, and Huron County has prime farmland.

I urge you to deny the Apex application on the grounds that it will impact Huron and Erie counties negatively on the economic and environmental fronts. My own state house representative Dick Stein has pointed out in an op-ed in the Norwalk Reflector the minimal energy impact of the wind turbines.

Sincerely,

Anne Southworth

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