

Wind Turbine Map

833 views
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Seneca Wind

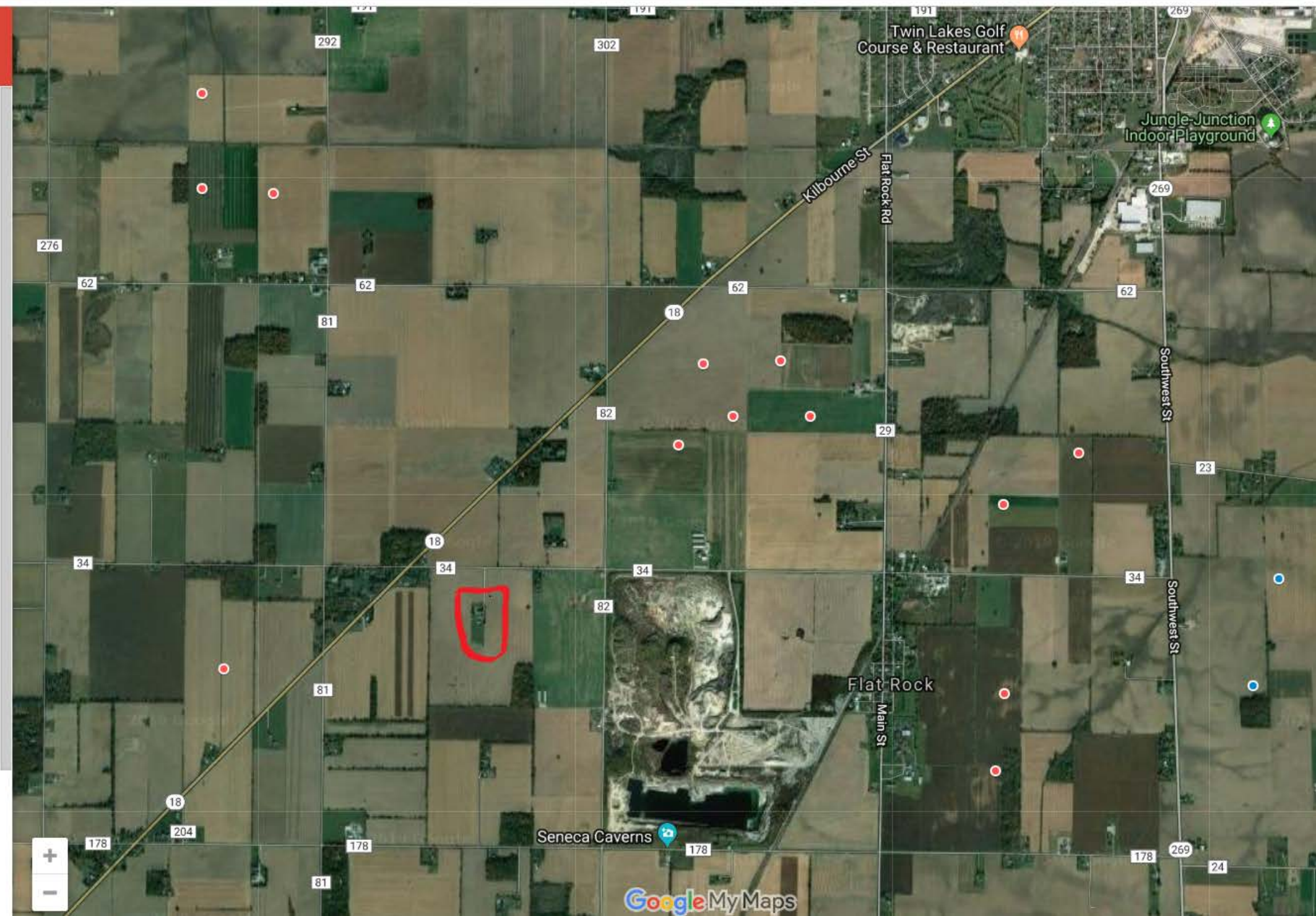
- Turbine #2 - short one
- Turbine #70 - short one
- Turbine #1 - shorter one
- Turbine #3 - Shorter One
- ... 90 more

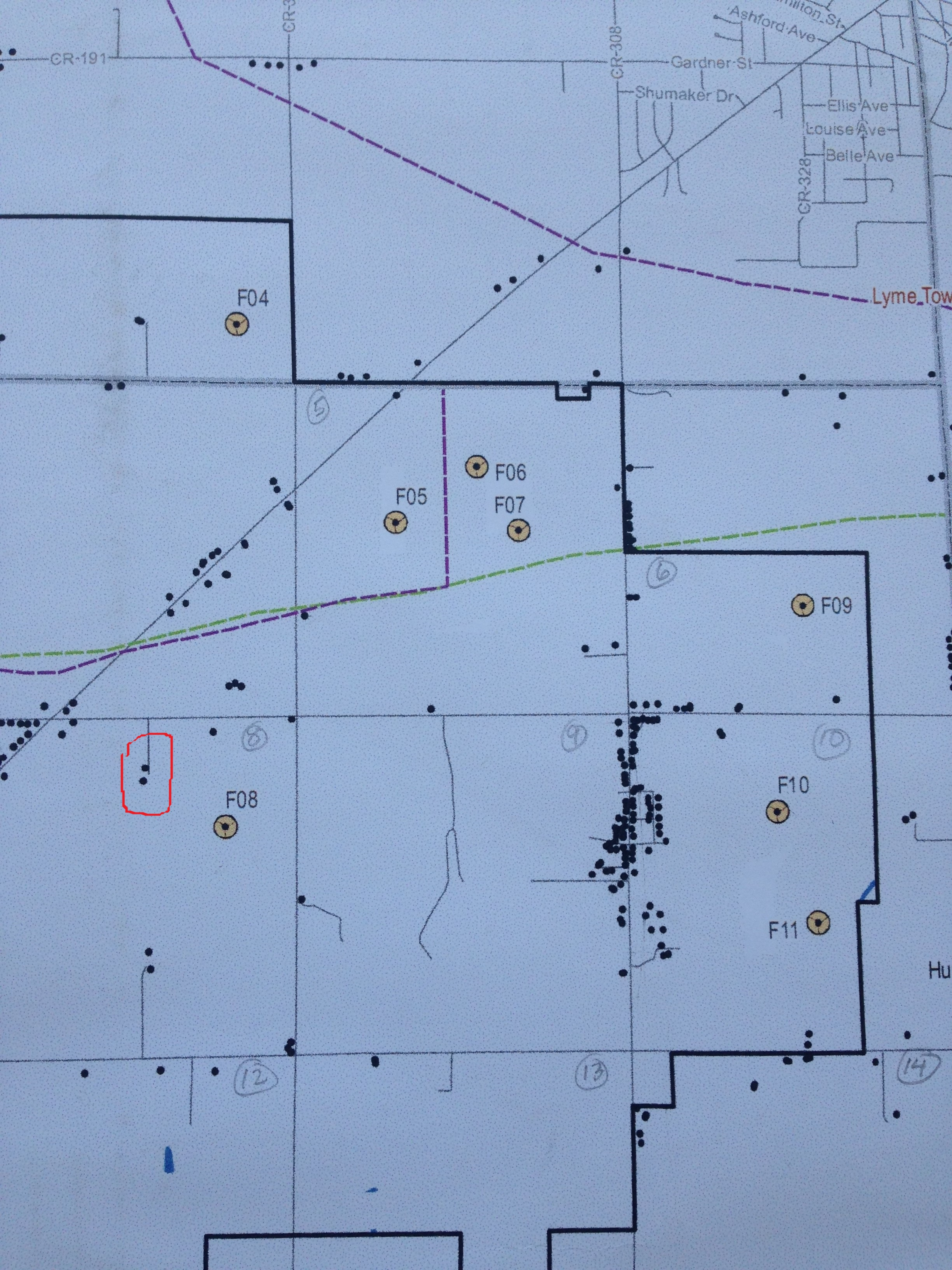
Republic Wind

- Turbine # T1
- Turbine #T10
- Turbine #T11
- Turbine #T12
- ... 46 more

Emerson Creek Wind

- Turbine #T1
- Turbine #T2
- Turbine #T3







Member of the OPSB

I have a question that keeps coming back up, and I can't really get any real answer to this. Who sets the rules and guidelines for the construction of the industrial wind turbines? The best answer I have received is from the AWE and it is a basic answer that really puts it back on the engineer who works for the wind companies. It is the standards that the engineering company put forth and this is how they come up with guidelines. It seems as the wind industry sets the standards for themselves, they use their own reports on noise, shadow flicker and infrasound and will not take any private sources findings in consideration. Where are the independent studies from W.H.O. along with that studies from Canada, along with other reports of well contamination? Michigan just published that they are seeing infrasound as a problem with their rural residents.

Everything we see is making the communities & residents to bear the burden of proof the problems that are caused by the wind projects once these projects are completed. From anything that I have read, wind turbines are not required to have any lightning protection as an industry standard. I have read where even if there is lightning protection that it will not pick up on **incidental lightning strikes**. This type of strike cannot be detected and go unnoticed as damage to the blades would pass a ground inspection. This would lead to contamination of water to the blades and the cold weather climate could cause blade failure. This would be just cause to move them further back from homes or general population.

There is no required inspections from the state of Ohio on the installation of the underground structure, direct buried 34kV lines, or grounding of the structure. There are no standards for protecting the general public from toxic fumes if the turbine catches fire. Employees are required to maintain 1600 plus feet due to asphyxiation from the smoke, but we the citizens must be expendable as Ohio says a minimum of 1330 feet. In the case of Van Wert Ohio less than a 1000 feet. I did like it when the wind companies addressed this in the PUCO public hearing. The comment was we do not want to go down this road of inspections as it will impact their process in getting projects completed. My thought is, what is wrong with looking out for the public's safety? By doing phase construction inspections, as every other contractor must comply with, this insures that the public's safety is being look at and insuring that we do not have problems.

In the matter of grounding and securing the area around these power plants, all the grounding that I have found is based off of a mountain type area where you have more surface contact to the concrete base, but even then rocks are not the best as if you look at MSAW (Mine Safety & Health Administration) there still is all types of methods you need to do in order to get the minimum ohms to ground readings. The AWE comments in the findings that they should have less than half due to the power production and the higher possibility of a lightning strike. Here again, we are letting the industry to self-police these projects. In the case of Wal-Mart and Tesla with the solar panels catching fire, the findings was the grounding was not installed properly and the grounding of the panels is what caused the fire.

Let's take a brief look at look at the deaths from electrocution. Although farmers are one of the lower number of direct contact with medium voltage lines with equipment, we are now going through the fields with 34,000 volt lines and will increase the possibility. What is the depth requirement for a medium voltage line? 24-inches is what is required by the NEC to the top of the conductor. I would think that this is based off using the normal circumstance where we see direct buried lines in right ways in town. Anything less shall be in conduit and or concrete encased. By installing these cables at the 24 inch mark will increase the possibility of them being killed by striking these lines. Farmers use a tool for the compaction of their soil. It has the possibility to reach 22-inches deep. Let's just say that the cables were buried at 24-inches and when completing the project the ground cover gets move to a lesser depth of 24-inches, who is going to insure that the farmer will not make contact with this type of tool? Are we going to tell the farmer that they can no longer use this area? Is the wind company going to control the area for usage? In the electrical contractor's world, our engineers normally requires us on a 7,400 volt lines to be at 36-inches and encased. I would think the PUCO/OPBS would require deeper installation of 34,000 volt lines that are not protected going across farm land.

I see that the PUCO is now rewriting the guidelines for natural gas pipelines. And is this because of other problems that have come to light with the recent pipelines being installed throughout the state?

Is this where we are going to be with the wind projects in Ohio? Trying to fix problems that we already know are issues? There is so many questions that need to be answered with the wind projects we are faced with right now. I'm not sure if you have ever read any land owners contract before or not, but in

one section it says just the first just the first three feet of the base to be removed below grade. What happens to the rest of the 500 – 700 yards of cement? And who is going to deal with it? If TOPO or Topography was never done, what prevents them from covering them up and changing the grade? Here again no records and no reporting of what the grade is at the start. This will affect the watershed of the property and field drainage. Who will remember what it was? On any commercial project TOPO has to be done to ensure that watershed will not to affect any of the surrounding properties. We have seen this in the pipeline in Seneca County where one of the owners had the TOPO done out of his own pocket, and they held the contractor doing the work responsible to put the ground back the way it was. This took the contractor a year to get it right.

If this was a typical power plant that is owned by an AEP, Duke Energy or Ohio Edison it would be policy that the projects be required to follow building standards, but instead we look at these projects like we are installing power poles. If we were to install 100 foot wind turbine for our own homes, it would fall under more inspections and general safety rules for my neighbors than these 600 – 700 foot tall turbines. Setbacks should increase not decrease and we the citizens of the affected areas should have the final say on these projects, after all we will be the ones living here, and not some construction company from Canada or West Texas and surely not any of the people from the wind companies that are sitting in this room. The PUCO is to protect **us** the citizens of Ohio from these type of projects and any future problems.

If I am wrong on the process, please tell me where I can go to find the guidelines that the State of Ohio put forth for the wind companies to follow. As of today I cannot find any federal and or state written laws on the construction requirements. Even the lawyers for the wind companies made the statement to the PUCO that they do not want to be bound by inspections as they feel it will impede the process of construction. Safety **MUST** be the first and up most important thing before any and all construction of these power plants that are being installed around our state.

In closing I feel the OPSB should **not grant** the Republic Wind project a permit due to multiple reasons.

1. It is the OPSB responsibility to keep all the citizens safe in regards to these type of projects.
2. Karst – with these type of depressions in the region, there is no responsible way to install the bases for the turbines without a negative outcome to wells, and roadways. The land will not support this type of heavy loads or structures without deep foundations or tensionless pier foundation.
3. Wells – protection of well water should be of the up most importance. I have had numerous phone conversations with the EPA and the State health department, but no one wants to be responsible for any possible negative outcome, like we have seen in Canada.
4. Wild Life – this is a migratory path for all types of birds, bats and protected birds of prey, Eagles Red-tailed Hawks. This past week we have seen a high migration of grasshoppers and monarch butterflies along with others. Maybe to some it sounds stupid, but it is part of our eco system, and needs to be protected.
5. Infrasound – One of the hot topics that the wind industry denies as true facts. We have seen reports from WHO, and now other states like Michigan, pushing back and passing laws about infrasound. Our own U.S. State Department officials contended Cuba staged a sonic attack on employees of the American embassy, causing a variety of neurological symptoms. Both sides acknowledge they are baffled as to what happened to 24 embassy employees who were diagnosed with mild traumatic brain damage between November 2016 and August 2017.

With just these reasons, it should be enough to stop the project and make the PUCO look at how we are treating the citizens of Ohio. Remember, at one time we all thought smoking was safe, cocaine was a wonder drug, heroin was a cure for a cough and asbestos was safe. The future health implications of wind turbines are known at this time, we should not have our blinders on.

Sincerely
Ed Clark / Eden Township Seneca County, Ohio

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