

Hunter, Donielle

From: Puco ContactOPSB
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2019 9:40 AM
To: Puco Docketing
Subject: public comment 17-2295-EL-BGN
Attachments: shumway testifying.jpg; Shumway Home in amended project.png; Shumway Home location prior to project amendment 2018.jpg

From: Deb H <hayyou87@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 10:54 PM
To: Rep. Bill Reineke <rep88@ohiohouse.gov>; State Senator Dave Burke <Burke@ohiosenate.gov>
Cc: Puco ContactOPSB <contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov>; tparadiso@senecacountyohio.gov; mkerschner@senecacountyohio.gov; Gillcrist, Michelle <Michelle.Gillcrist@governor.ohio.gov>; Randazzo, Samuel <Samuel.Randazzo@puco.ohio.gov>; Representative A. Nino Vitale <Rep85@ohiohouse.gov>; William J. Seitz <rep30@ohiohouse.gov>; Rep. Dick Stein <rep57@ohiohouse.gov>; Williams, Sandra <Williams@ohiosenate.gov>; Wilson, Steve <wilson@ohiosenate.gov>
Subject: Biased Public Hearings for Republic Wind Case # 17-2295-EL-BGN, September 12th 2019

September 13th, 2019

Rep. Bill Reineke (House District 88)
77 S. High Street
14th Floor
Columbus Ohio 43215

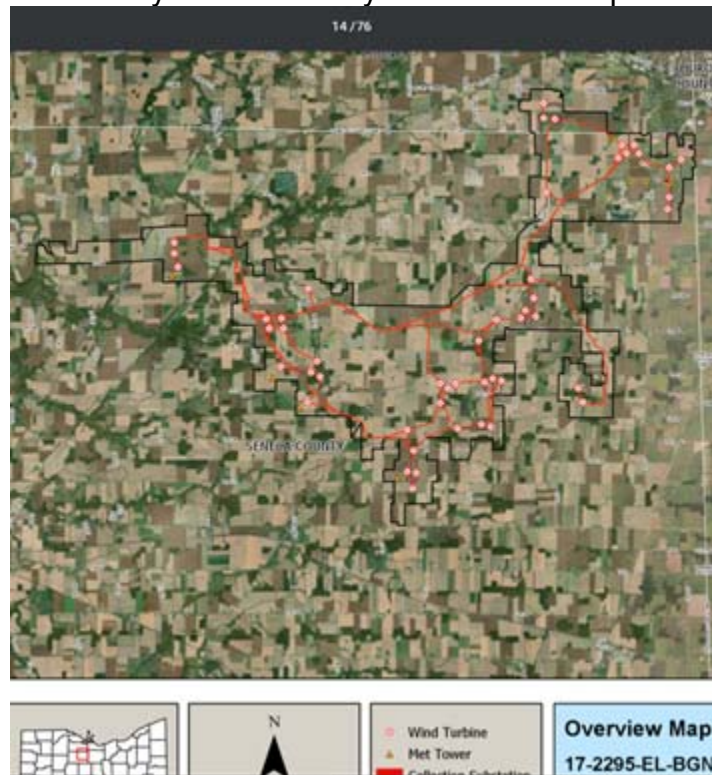
Sen. David Burke (Senate District 26)
Senate Building
1 Capital Square, Ground Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Representative Bill Reineke, and Senator David Burke

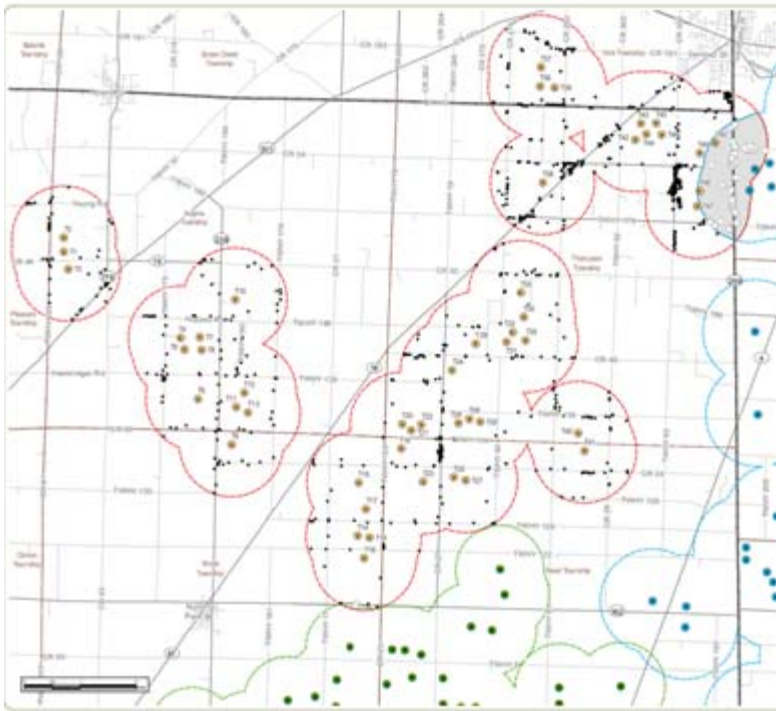
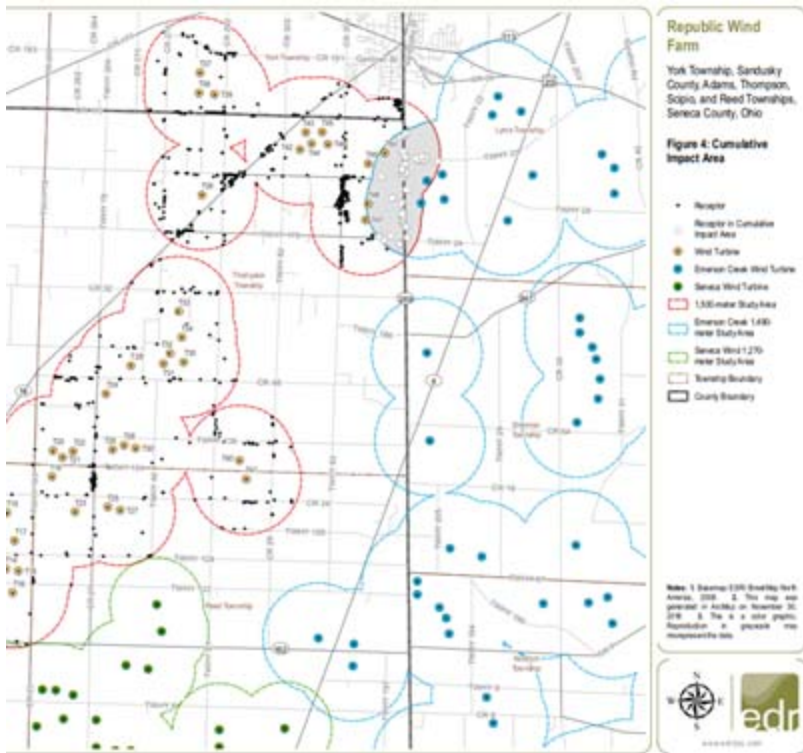
According to the rules of the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) rules, those recognized as legally intervening at the OPSB may not testify at public hearings. There are 69 individuals (39 households) legally intervening in opposition in the Republic Wind Case # [17-2295-EL-BGN](#). We are paying for our own lawyer to represent us and cannot afford to pay him to be present at the public hearing. The wind developer had legal counsel at the public hearings. They always seem to have a never-ending amount of money to influence the process at the OPSB. It was quite noticeable during the hearings that the Administrative Law Judge Arganoff took careful notes when proponents spoke but when the opposition was speaking, he riffled through his papers and seemed otherwise inattentive. I wonder if his summation of the testimony will reflect the depth and thorough reporting of the opposition?

It seemed an injustice that leaseholders who are legally involved in the Republic Wind LLC could speak at the public hearing. Yet those of us who had to dig into life savings to scrape up enough money for legal counsel could not speak because we were considered legally involved. When you look at the misshapen cookie cutter shape of the Republic Wind LLC (image below from page 14

OPSB staff report) it is easy to understand how many in the area could be considered “outside” the arbitrary boundary lines conveniently determined by the wind developer.



It would seem more equitable to consider testimony from all those in the cumulative impact areas, after all the OPSB is charged with consideration of the cumulative impacts of multiple industrial wind projects. Why is it the wind developer decides the project boundary lines? Shouldn't the OPSB determine the boundary lines of the cumulative impact areas. The following maps are of cumulative impact areas.



Although we had swallowed our pride and allowed our neighbors in the surrounding area to speak for us, at approximately 3 hours into the public proceedings the lawyers for the wind developer argued that their clients were leaving and needed to be prioritized. The Administrative Law Judge

(ALJ) Arganoff made a new rule that would allow them to go first but then Chairman Randazzo commented that priority should be given to anyone in the project area. At that point only those in the project area could speak before others outside the project boundary in the cumulative areas impacted. Many of our neighbors outside the boundary waited as a parade of leaseholders now made their way to the podium, testifying as proponents to the project. At this point the bias of ALJ Argonoff is palpable in the room. He listens attentively to the leaseholders and takes careful notes. Opponents in line to speak express their consternation of losing their turn in line to speak. Many of the bureaucrats who sit on the board didn't even bother to attend the public hearing. They will likely rely on a synopsis of the hearing prepared by the ALJ. I wonder what he will write.

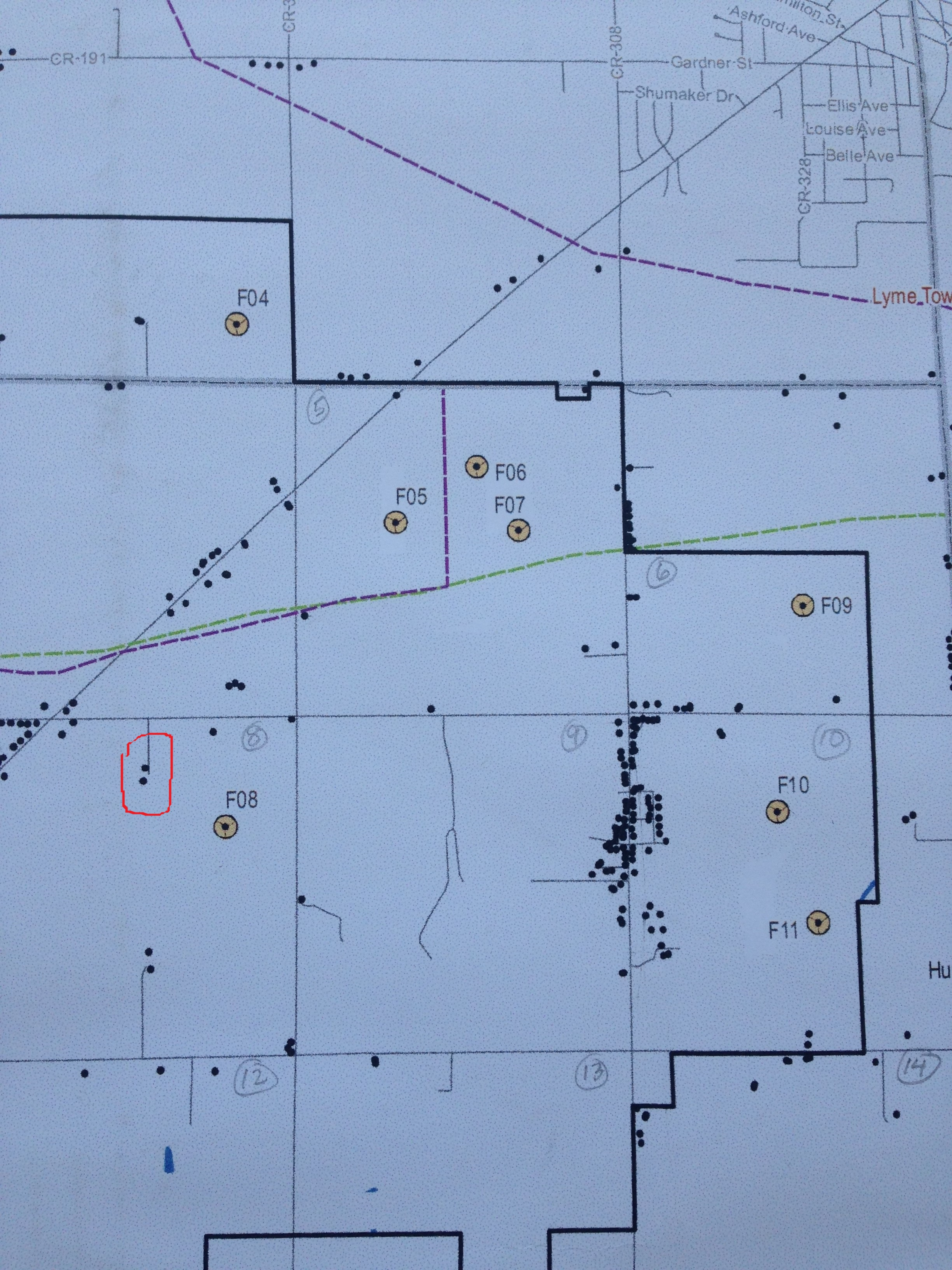
One of the leaseholders, Michael Shumway, had no problem jumping ahead of everyone else. Our family knows Michael, you see our kids carpool to school together and as of yesterday his kids were still living at 304 High Street in Bellevue, as I'm sure he was as well. Yet, Michael Shumway testified that he lives in the project area on County Rd. 34 in Thompson Township. Well, to be fair, he is working on a home there for his family. But they don't live there. It is also an inconvenient truth that when Apex amended the project in 2018 the turbine sited close to his families "would be" new home was moved further away. "It's good to be the "king", I mean the "leaseholder". After the amendment other non-participating homes in Thompson Township would have turbines closer to their homes such as the Jenk's, the Jordan's and the Clapp's. All of which were denied intervenor status by ALJ Arganoff in April 2018 by the OPSB, on the grounds that our township supposedly represented us. <http://dis.puc.state.oh.us/DocumentRecord.aspx?DocID=d1fe27da-56bf-4084-b6d6-ee2aec374e9e>

Well another inconvenient truth is that our Thompson Township trustees (Troy Warner and David Ziegler) by a vote of 2/3 refused to intervene in opposition to their own financial interests as leaseholders in the Republic Wind LLC. To make matters worse an immediate family member of our trustee, Troy Warner, sold Wind Lease Agreements throughout the township. When the Wind Developer for Republic Wind LLC came to the area years ago and began collecting leases for this project, 90% or more of the area residents were not included in the planning and knew nothing about this project. Even those who signed Wind Support leases (Good Neighbor Agreements) envisioned windmills similar in size to what is at the Bellevue High School. These wind developers work in a cloak of darkness until they publicly announce the project and the details slowly emerge. Many don't believe the news at first. How could they possibly build 602 Ft turbines with a blade diameter of 492 ft in my community, that can't be true! Then as residents begin to understand the danger and destructive nature of these massive turbines, many rise up in opposition. It isn't surprising then to see that 70% of those testifying at the public hearing this past Thursday were strongly opposed to the project. It is also telling that of the 30% who spoke in support of the project, the majority were leaseholders who stand to benefit now or in the future, as projects expand in the area. If they weren't going to benefit financially would they have spoken? Ohio is the only state in the region that has taken away local zoning rights and given it to an unelected board of bureaucrats appointed by the Governor. That is why you will see setbacks of industrial turbines from property lines in surrounding states have increased in response to the increasing size and power of these industrial wind turbines. Representative Bill Reineke, we hear you are preparing to introduce the Reineke Referendum which would allow communities a voice in the siting of industrial wind turbines. If wind developers are serious about working with communities to develop these projects, then they should welcome this referendum. Unfortunately, wind lobbyists, with their coffers "full from our tax subsidies", are working against any referendum in Ohio. That would give local communities some control. Apparently, they would rather continue to keep their safety manuals proprietary and work in a cloak of darkness.

Some things have changed in our community for a long time to come, one of which is our school carpooling plans. Please make every effort to bring equity back to our local communities and consider everyone's property rights. Not just a select few.

Sincerely, Deb and Duane Hay
Seneca County, Thompson Township.

CC: Seneca County Commissioner Mike Kerschner
Seneca County Commissioner Anthony Paradiso
Northern Ohio Liaison to the Governor, Michelle Gillcrist
PUCO Chairman Samuel Randazzo
Representative Dick Stein
Representative Nino Vitale
Representative Bill Seitz
Senator Steve Wilson
Senator Sandra Williams
PUCO Public Affairs, Matt Butler



Wind Turbine Map

833 views
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Seneca Wind

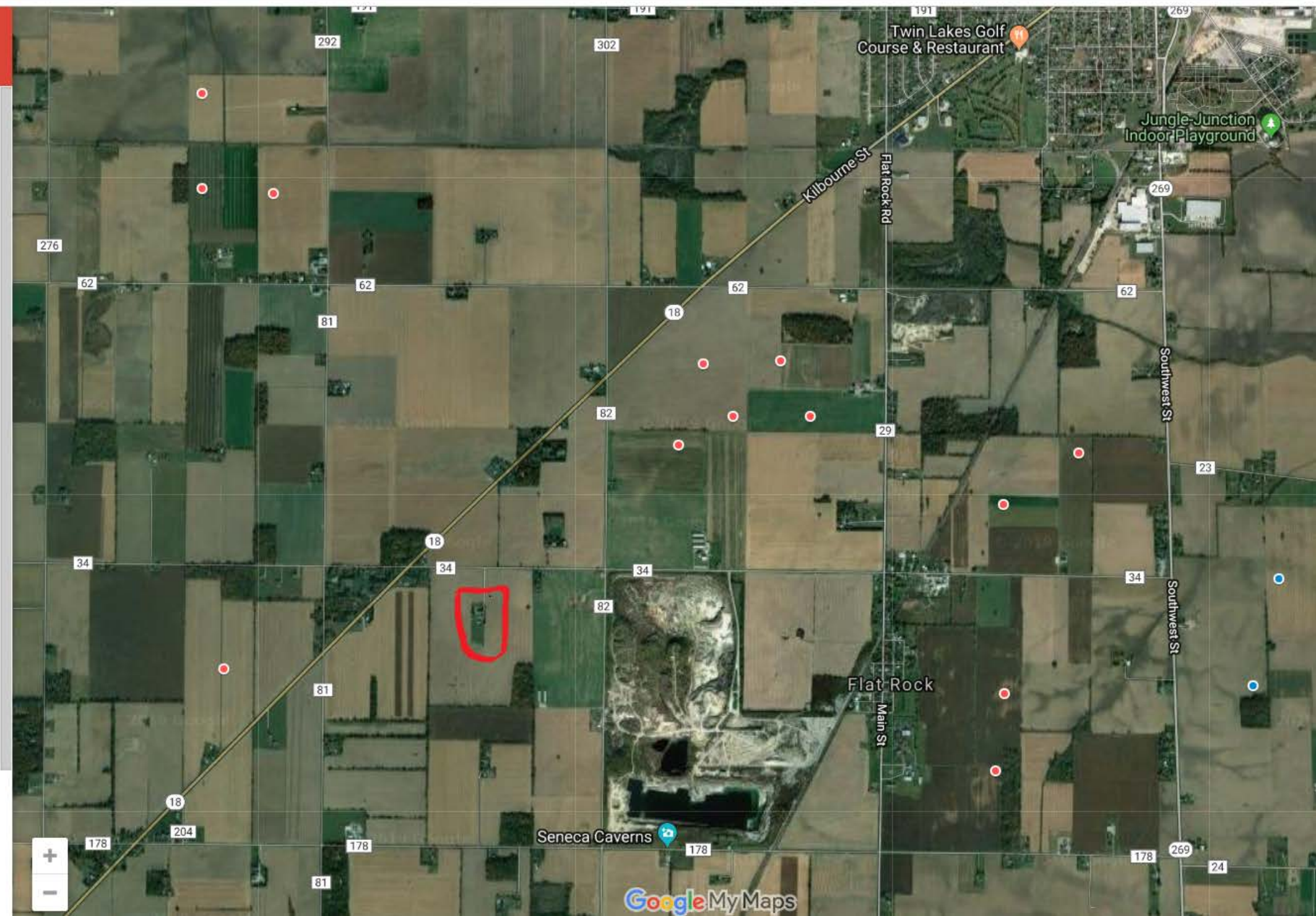
- Turbine #2 - short one
- Turbine #70 - short one
- Turbine #1 - shorter one
- Turbine #3 - Shorter One
- ... 90 more

Republic Wind

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

Emerson Creek Wind

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





This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

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in

Case No(s). 17-2295-EL-BGN

Summary: Public Comment electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing