

**BEFORE
THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD**

In the Matter of the Application of	:	
Republic Wind, LLC for a Certificate of	:	
Environmental Compatibility and Public	:	
Need for a Wind-Powered Electric	:	Case No. 17-2295-EL-BGN
Generating Facility in Seneca and Sandusky	:	
Counties, Ohio	:	

**PREFILED TESTIMONY
OF
James S. O'Dell
SITING, EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF RATES AND ANALYSIS
OHIO POWER SITING BOARD STAFF**

STAFF EX. ____

October 28, 2019

1 1. Q. Please state your name and business address.

2 A. My name is James S. O'Dell, and my business address is 180 East Broad
3 Street, Columbus OH 43215.
4

5 2. Q. By whom are you employed and what is your position?

6 A. I am employed by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (Commission)
7 as a senior Siting Specialist in the Siting, Efficiency and Renewable Energy
8 Division of the Commission's Rates and Analysis Department.
9

10 3. Q. Please summarize your educational background and work experience.

11 A. I hold Bachelor's Degrees from The Ohio State University in Political
12 Science (1988) and Sociology (1997). Additionally, I received a Master's
13 Degree in City and Regional Planning from The Ohio State University in
14 1992. I also have significant course work completed towards a Master's
15 Degree in Public Policy from Central Michigan University.
16

17 I have been employed by the Commission since 1991. I have worked
18 almost exclusively on power siting activities during that time. I have
19 developed analysis for over 350 cases before the Ohio Power Siting Board
20 (Board). My responsibilities typically include application review and the
21 preparation of analysis for major utility facilities in Ohio. Additionally, I
22 process and review minor filings such as Letters of Notification and

1 Construction Notices. In the past, I also have been the primary author for
2 the Board's annual reports. I have been the lead analyst in excess of 50
3 applications, responsible for the preparation of staff reports and
4 coordination of Staff review and field work for major utility facilities.

5
6 4. Q. Have you testified in prior proceedings before the Ohio Power Siting
7 Board?

8 A. Yes. I have testified in many cases before the Board concerning Staff's
9 investigation and report findings and recommendations on proposed siting
10 projects involving power plants, wind farms, substations, and transmission
11 lines.

12
13 5. Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?

14 A. I am sponsoring the sections of the Staff Report of Investigation (Staff
15 Report) pertaining to the aesthetics, recreation, land use and cultural
16 resources sections that were filed in the docket of this case on July 25,
17 2019. Additionally, I authored Condition 18 of the Staff Report.

18
19 6. Q. Please summarize Staff's investigation that was conducted in this case.

20 A. Staff's investigation included reviewing the application, conducting site
21 visits to the proposed facility location, acquiring additional information
22 from the applicant, obtaining input from state agencies that comprise the

1 Board along with other relevant state and federal agencies, and preparing a
2 Staff Report that presents Staff's analysis, conclusions, and
3 recommendations. As a result of Staff's investigation, Staff is recom-
4 mending that the Board approve the application, subject to the conditions
5 that are presented in the Staff Report and Supplement to the Staff Report.
6

7 7. Q. Do you have any changes or corrections to make to the Staff Report of
8 Investigation?

9 A. I have no corrections to the Staff Report as docketed.
10

11 8. Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

12 A. Yes. However, I reserve the right to submit supplemental testimony as
13 described herein, as new information subsequently becomes available or in
14 response to positions taken by other parties.

PROOF OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing Prefiled Testimony of James S. O'Dell submitted on behalf of the Staff of the Ohio Power Siting Board, was served via electronic mail, upon the following parties of record, this 28th day of October, 2019.

/s/ Jodi J. Bair

Jodi J. Bair

Assistant Attorney General

Parties of Record:

Sally W. Bloomfield (0022038)

Dylan F. Borchers (0090690)

Devin D. Parram (0082507)

Dane Stinson (0019101)

Bricker & Eckler LLP

100 South Third Street

Columbus, OH 43215-4291

614.227.2300 (telephone)

614.227.2390 (facsimile)

sbloomfield@bricker.com

dborchers@bricker.com

dparram@bricker.com

dstinson@bricker.com

Counsel for Republic Wind, LLC

Miranda R. Leppla (0086351)

Trent A. Dougherty (0079817)

Christopher D. Tavenor (0096642)

The Ohio Environmental Council

1145 Chesapeake Avenue, Suite I

Columbus OH 43212

614.487.7506 (telephone)

(614) 487-7510 (facsimile)

mleppla@theoec.org

Chad A. Endsley (0080648)

Leah F. Curtis (0086257)

Amy M. Milam (0082375)

Ohio Farm Bureau Federation

280 North High Street, P.O. Box 182383

Columbus, OH 43218-2383

614.246.8256 (telephone)

614.246.8656 (facsimile)

cendsley@ofbf.org

lcurtis@ofbf.org

amilam@ofbf.org

*Counsel for Ohio Farm Bureau
Federation*

Jack Van Kley (0016961)

Christopher A. Walker (0040696)

Van Kley & Walker LLC

120 West Second Street, Ste 1700

Dayton, OH 45402

937.226.9000 (telephone)

937.226.9002 (facsimile)

jvankley@vankleywalker.com

cwalker@vankleywalker.com

tdougherty@theoec.org
ctavenor@theoec.org

Counsel for Local Resident Intervenors

*Counsel for Ohio Environmental
Council and Environmental
Defense Fund*

Derek W. DeVine (0062488)
Joshua D. Clark (0097037)
Seneca County Prosecutor
79 South Washington
Tiffin, OH 44883
419.448.4444 (telephone)
419.443.7911 (facsimile)
dwd@senecapros.org
jclark@senecapros.org

*Counsel for Seneca County
Commissioners, Adams Township, Scipio
Township, Reed Township, and Seneca
County Park District*

Dennis & Leslie Hackenburg
6015 County Road 191
Bellevue Oh 44811
dennyh7@frontier.com

Pro Se Counsel

Administrative Law Judges:

Jay S. Agranoff (0039645)
Amrita A. Sanyal (0089269)
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215-3763
614.644.7694 (telephone)
614.728.8373 (facsimile)
Jay.Agranoff@puco.ohio.gov
Anna.Sanyal@puco.ohio.gov

Mark E. Mulligan (0024891)
Sandusky County Prosecutor's Office
100 North Park Avenues Suite 220
Fremont, OH 43420
419.334.6221 (telephone)
419.334.6232 (facsimile)
mulligan_mark@co.sandusky.oh.us

*Counsel for Petitioner the Board of
Trustees of York Township, Sandusky
County, Ohio*

Michael & Tiffany Kessler
4133 N Township Road
Republic Oh 44867
mkessler7@gmail.com

Pro Se Counsel

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Summary: Testimony of James S. O'Dell electronically filed by Mrs. Kimberly M Naeder on behalf of OPSB