

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Ohio Power Siting Board
Sam Randazzo - Chairman

2/16/2020

Mr. Chairman,

I write as the Republic Wind project in Seneca County OH is awaiting final vote by the OPSB and the Emerson Creek Wind project is being reviewed by staff. Note that at this time no construction has begun on either project.

During the adjudicatory hearing process for the Republic Wind project portions of the turbine safety manual, which heretofore had been deemed proprietary, were released into the public record. Among the information released was the turbine manufacturer recommendations for assured clear safety distances in case of a fire or when "thunderstorms are in the area". These distances were listed as 500 meters or 1640 feet from turbine for protection from fire and 1000 meters or 3280 feet from turbine for protection from thunderstorms.

The current distance prescribe by Ohio law for a turbine to be placed from non-participating property is 1125 ft. The ORC also states that this is a "minimum" distance and that OPSB rules "shall prescribe reasonable regulations" regarding wind turbine locations.

Given that the designated minimum setback is insufficient to meet the turbine manufacturer's own prescribed safety distance, it would be incumbent upon any reasonable regulation to specify a distance greater than any designated minimum should such be recommended by the turbines manufacturer or any other authoritative professional engineering group.

Now that it is public knowledge that setbacks allowed by staff report in the Republic Wind project and designed into the Emerson Creek project plans are entirely insufficient to protect public safety it would be a dereliction of duty for the PUCO, the OPSB, and indeed the State of Ohio, to grant a certificate allowing construction of any such facility with said insufficient turbine setbacks.

I trust that this issue will be addressed and remedied by applying the manufacturer's safe setback distances to any and all wind turbines under OPSB jurisdiction which have yet to be built. Given the frequency of thunderstorms in Ohio this distance should be 3,280 feet for the Republic Wind project.

Thank you for your attention to this most important matter as no wind turbine must be allowed construction which knowingly violates safety requirements.

Jim Feasel
Tiffin, OH
Seneca County

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