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Ohio Power Siting Board
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Case No. 18-1546-EL-BGN Nestlewood Solar I

After the decision to defer the project in October 2019, I trust that the Ohio Power Siting board members can be the final voice of reason and deny the 80-megawatt application for the project, Nestlewood Solar I presented by the Developer, Lendlease/Nestlewood Solar I.

My family and I moved out here 8 years ago to leave the city life behind. This is why my neighbors are here too. We want peace and quiet. Please help us preserve that. I firmly believe that no one would ever want an industrial "prison" view from their living room window in the form of a solar "farm". There are plenty of other locations better suited than our backyards for this solar property. Solar panels can run along highways or be on different larger property, distant from homeowners.

Yes, this project will help power thousands of homes, but at what cost to the consumer? The cost of building the solar property will certainly be passed along to electricity consumers in the form of price hikes, something that can't be afforded in the age of the COVID-19 pandemic. This project only benefits big business, not the consumer.

Nestlewood and their attorneys want to make it appear that my neighbors and the surrounding community don't care about the proposed solar facility by not attending any OPSB sessions or hearings in Columbus. I want you to know that we do. The problem is that we live 2.5 hours away. We are mostly blue collar workers and have jobs to attend as most of us live paycheck to paycheck and can't afford to be in attendance. We can't afford a lawyer to be in Columbus for every hearing and board meeting and we shouldn't have to hire a lawyer to stand up for us and our property values. We have families, homes, and properties we have to tend to, all on top of trying to battle a monstrous solar company, which on all counts, is mentally exhausting. For the solar company and their attorneys, they collectively have all the time in the world.

I hope that you are in complete agreement with me in the fact that Nestlewood is doing a careless job trying to get board approval and complete their solar project. Please take notice that there have been numerous incomplete issues that weren't resolved until they were brought to the Developer's attention.

In this letter, as in my previous letters, I have pointed to some concerns with the Developer, Lendlease/Nestlewood Solar I as well as with the project, Nestlewood Solar I, which I will list below.

Communication

This issue has always been an astronomically weak area for the project and I will outline some points below which they and their attorney focused on in the February 2020 testimony.

- Mr. Joe Jordan, the project's former Development Director stated in his February 2020 testimony, *"As we mentioned, we reached out to folks after the public information hearing. I did not receive any callbacks subsequent to the public information hearing. But we have -- both myself and the current project manager have been passing out our business cards and offering to answer any questions any time from both landowners and also community leaders from both townships."*
 - I personally want my questions and observances to go on the record through these letters, so that the OPSB can see where the Developer is lacking in the project. This is why I didn't return Mr. Jordan's phone call the week following the May 30, 2019 public hearing.
 - I have not spoken with Mr. Jordan since the May 30, 2019 public hearing. In addition, I have had no contact with the new project manager at all, as it has not been communicated with me as to who this new manager is. The 10 other nearby property owners I have personally had discussions with reiterate the same statement.
- Questions about screening options
 - Screening options were not and have not been discussed in person with any of the non-participating property owners. They have only been outlined in the February 2020 testimony.
- On March 30, 2020 I noticed a surveyor at the corner of my property. I spoke with him and he stated that they're adding a parcel to the solar project diagonally from my property. According to the Developer's filings, this will be for the underground lines. Why are they surveying this late in the project? Shouldn't this surveying have been completed before the May 24, 2019 Modification of Project Footprint?

Reliability of Solar

According to The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), photovoltaic solar had a dismal [24.5% average capacity factor for 2019](#). In comparison, the 2019 average capacity factor for nuclear power was 93.5%. Taxpayers money should be invested in a source which will provide more reliable electricity than solar.

Water Contamination Concerns

Vandament Road has two occupied houses in which they rely on well water for personal consumption. What detriment will there be to their domestic water use? Also, how will this development affect the natural springs populated throughout the project area?

Fire Safety

In his February testimony, Mr. Jordan briefly answered some of these questions I brought up in my February 25, 2020 public comment letter. However, he did not adequately address the following previous concerns.

- Even if trained, do we have enough emergency services personnel in the vicinity? Which emergency personnel will be trained and from which counties/cities/townships?
- Fire hydrants in the area are few and far between. Do we have enough fire hydrants in close proximity to knock down fires around the solar fields as well as ward off flames that may be nearing our homes? Do the current hydrants have enough of a flow rate if there's a fire? If not, who will absorb the cost of upgrading old hydrants or installing new ones?

- Is the right equipment available to combat a combination electrical/environmental fire? If it's not, how will it be obtained and who will pay for it?
- How will the residents and our property be kept **SAFE**?

Lastly, in response to Chairman Randazzo's question at the October 2019 board meeting, *does the facility serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity?* and *does it serve the interest of the electric system and economy and reliability?* I hope that all of you will agree with me that the response should be a resounding NO. Consider that Ohio has the following 6 solar projects, significantly larger than the Nestlewood project, either recently approved by the OPSB or currently under construction.

- 200-megawatt Hillcrest Solar Facility
- 300-megawatt Highland Solar
- 150-megawatt Willowbrook Solar
- 150-megawatt Hardin Solar Energy Facility
- 170-megawatt Hardin Solar Energy 2
- 125-megawatt Vinton Solar Energy Facility

My point with this letter and all of the letters I have submitted in the past is to reiterate the lack of communication from Lendlease/Nestlewood Solar I. These letters are to also serve as a way to inform the residents and community of the facts about solar and how this project could possibly affect all of us.

OPSB members, I beg of you, consider that this area isn't a blank slate. There is a diverse amount of wildlife here. There's expansive farmland here. But most importantly, there are established homes and **families** here.

Thank you,

M. Kate Powers

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