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Rochester Hills MI 48307

May 13, 2020

Mary Mertz, Director  
Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
2045 Morse Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43229-6693

Subject: Wind Turbine Projects in Seneca, Huron, Erie, and Sandusky Counties  
Ref: Case #18-1607-EL-BGN, and #17-2295-EL-BGN

Dear Ms. Mertz,

I last wrote to you when I was living in Huron County, Ohio. While I have relocated since then, I am still closely monitoring the noted industrial wind turbine (IWT) projects that are progressing through the OPSB approval process. You see, I have hundreds of family members and friends who reside in the affected counties and I care deeply about the effects of these wind turbines on their lives and property. Additionally, as I contemplate retirement in the not too distant future, I want to note that my desire to relocate back to the region of my upbringing, where I can be close to my family, hinges strongly on the outcome of the approval or denial of these projects.

When I last wrote, I expressed my foremost concern, the protection of the ground water system in the area. This has not changed. The Huron, Seneca, Erie, and Sandusky County quadrangle is home to the most concentrated Karst geology in the state of Ohio (The Bellevue-Castalia Karst Plain), and per the ODNR Division of Geological Survey, "...is believed to contain more sinkholes than any of Ohio's other karst regions." The ODNR has a great deal of information about this area and the **sensitivity of the ground water system to contamination**. Large scale excavation and construction, including deep anchor drilling, poses a major risk for contamination of the ground water for both city and rural residents. One cannot ignore the increased risk construction presents for flooding and property damage as was experienced in 2008.

<http://geosurvey.ohiodnr.gov/geologic-hazards/karst-geology/karst-mapping>  
<http://geosurvey.ohiodnr.gov/portals/geosurvey/PDFs/Karst/karstmap.pdf>  
<http://geosurvey.ohiodnr.gov/portals/geosurvey/PDFs/Karst/BellevueKarst2008.pdf>  
[http://geosurvey.ohiodnr.gov/portals/geosurvey/PDFs/OpenFileReports/OFR\\_2013-1.pdf](http://geosurvey.ohiodnr.gov/portals/geosurvey/PDFs/OpenFileReports/OFR_2013-1.pdf)

Additionally, the Ohio EPA has designated this four-county area a Drinking Water Projection Area.

<http://web.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/nps/NPSMP/photos/criticalgwareas.jpg>  
[http://web.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/nps/NPSMP/photos/SusceptibleCommPWSs\\_GW.jpg](http://web.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/nps/NPSMP/photos/SusceptibleCommPWSs_GW.jpg)

**As voting members of the OPSB, and as agencies that have the mission to protect Ohio's natural resources, it is incumbent on the ODNR and Ohio EPA to follow that mission and protect these areas from construction that clearly puts these zones at HIGH RISK.** Please vote to reject the Emerson Creek Wind Turbine Project (#18-1607-EL-BGN) as well as the Republic Wind Turbine Project (#17-2295-EL-BGN).

More recently, the ODNR Division of Wildlife Bald Eagle nest census report provides a particularly important data set that cannot be ignored by the members of your staff and the members of the OPSB. A full 17% of the state's known nests lie in these four counties where the two major IWT projects I have noted are planned. No doubt you are also aware that these counties are in a major bird migratory corridor and the presence of more than 130, 600+ foot IWT structures, for these two projects alone, is a major threat to these bird populations.

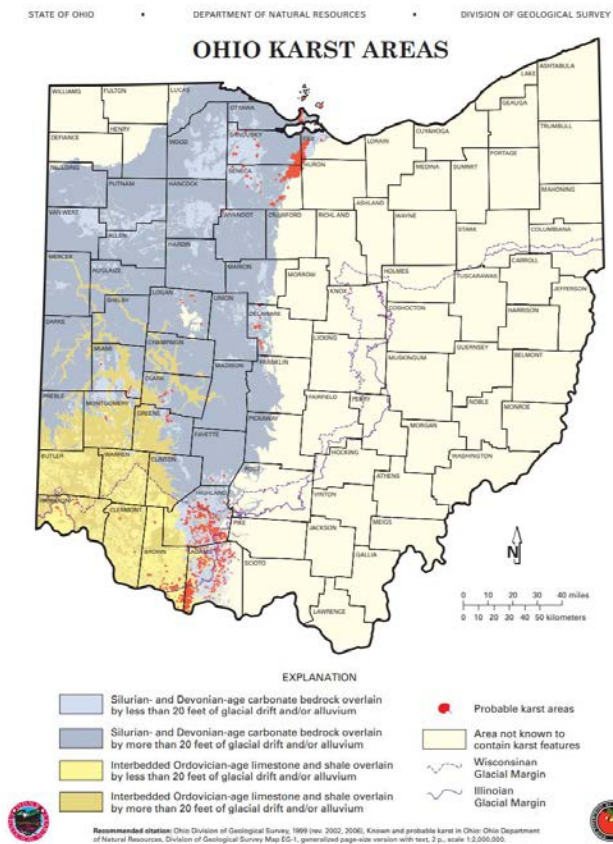
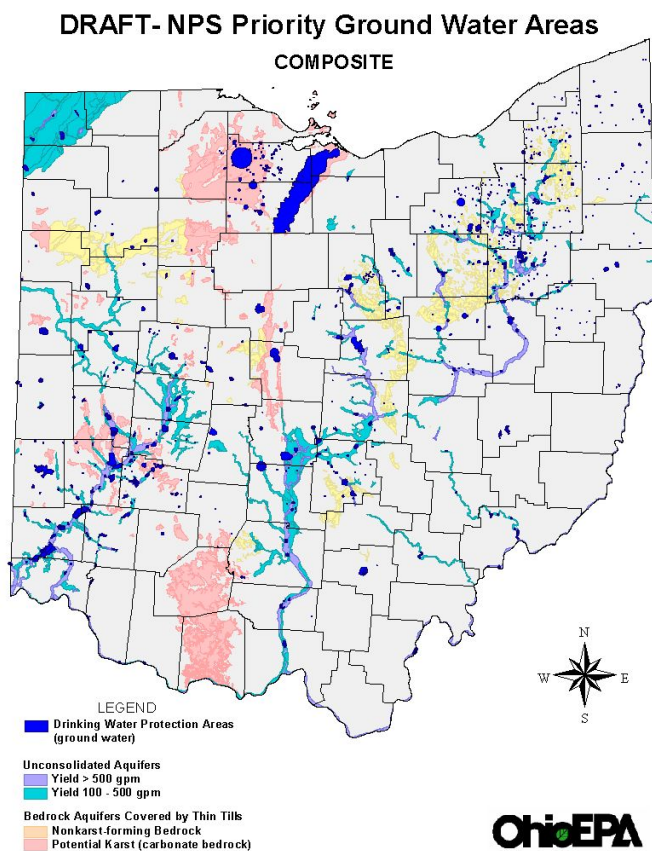
As you are a voting member of the OPSB, I am requesting that you listen to the voice of the majority of the residents in these affected areas and reject the project applications for the noted IWT projects. The risks that accompany the wind turbine projects in the area far outweigh any perceived environmental or economic benefit that has been suggested.

I appreciate your time in reviewing my letter and the information that can be found through the web links. If you have any questions I can be contacted at [janeruffing@gmail.com](mailto:janeruffing@gmail.com). Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

*Jane M. Ruffing*

Jane M. Ruffing



**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities**

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Summary: Public Comment of Jane M. Ruffing electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing