

**BEFORE
THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD**

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

**PREFILED TESTIMONY
OF
Grant Zeto
ON BEHALF OF THE STAFF OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO
POWER SITING DEPARTMENT**

STAFF EX. ____

September 9, 2020

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

2 A. My name is Grant Zeto, and my business address is 180 East Broad Street,
3 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 (PUCO) as a
7 Utility Specialist 2 in the Power Siting Department.

8

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

10 A. I received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Environment and Natural
11 Resources from The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.

12

13 I have been employed by the PUCO since August 2011. My responsibilities
14 during this time have primarily involved review of Power Siting cases.

15

16 4. Q. What was your role in this case?

17 A. I was a Staff subject analyst for portions of the staff report by contributing
18 to the overall staff investigation.

19

20 5. Q. What sections of the staff report of investigation did you work on?

21 A. Surface Waters, Threatened and Endangered Species, and Vegetation

22

1 6. Q. Does the occurrence of additional bald eagle nests near or within the project
2 area effect your conclusions or recommendations in the staff report of
3 investigation?

4 A. No. Condition 40 states the following, “The Applicant shall coordinate with
5 the USFWS to determine the adequacy of preconstruction eagle use surveys
6 and assure that impacts to bald eagles are minimized. If recommended by
7 the USFWS, the Applicant shall develop and implement an Eagle
8 Conservation Plan. The Eagle Conservation Plan shall be developed in
9 coordination with the USFWS and in accordance with the USFWS’s Eagle
10 Conservation Plan Guidance document and 2016 Revised Eagle Take
11 Permit Regulations (50 CFR 22). Further correspondence with USFWS
12 shall be provided to Staff 30 days prior to turbine construction to confirm
13 compliance with this condition.” Requiring the Applicant to comply with
14 the terms of condition 40 would adequately minimize potential impacts to
15 bald eagles even if there are new nests in the project area since the issuance
16 of the staff report.

17
18 7. Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

19 A. Yes, it does. However, I reserve the right to submit supplemental
20 testimony, as new information subsequently becomes available or in
21 response to positions taken by other parties.

PROOF OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing **Prefiled Testimony of Grant Zeto**, submitted on behalf of the Staff of the Ohio Power Siting Board, was served via electronic mail, upon the following parties of record, this 9th day of September, 2020.

/s/ Jodi J. Bair

Jodi J. Bair

Assistant Attorney General

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Summary: Testimony Prefiled Testimony of Grant Zeto electronically filed by Mrs. Kimberly M Naeder on behalf of OPSB