

**BEFORE
THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD**

In the Matter of the Application of Big :
Plain Solar, LLC for a Certificate of : Case No. 19-1823-EL-BGN
Environmental Compatibility and Public :
Need. :

**PREFILED TESTIMONY
OF
Andrew Conway**

**ON BEHALF OF THE STAFF OF THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO,
POWER SITING DEPARTMENT**

STAFF EX. ____

January 25, 2021

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

2 A. My name is Andrew Conway, 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 an Engineering Specialist within the Power Siting Department.
8

9 3. Q. Please describe your job title and duties?

10 A. As an Engineering Specialist in Power Siting Department, I review technical
11 issues associated with energy infrastructure design, construction, and
12 operation. I work on a case lead or in assigned areas of Applications for a
13 Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need to construct
14 major utility facilities and economically significant wind farms, and other
15 duties.
16

17 I have provided analysis on multiple projects, including wind farms, solar
18 farms, and natural gas combined cycle power plants submitted to the Ohio
19 Power Siting Board (OPSB). I have also inspected and visited numerous
20 power plants in various stages of design, construction, and operation
21

1 4. Q. Would you please summarize your educational background and work
2 experience?

3 A. I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering and minor in
4 Chemistry from the University of Toledo. I am also a registered professional
5 engineer in the State of Ohio. I attended a Solar Photovoltaic Project Design
6 and Development training workshop in August 2016. I successfully
7 completed the Electronics Technicians Association (ETA) certified 5-day
8 Photovoltaic Level 1 Design/Installation Course in January 2017. I also took
9 training courses specific to geotechnical exploration, renewable energy
10 installation, and safety.

11
12 From 2001 to 2009, I was employed by the Ohio Environmental Protection
13 Agency as an environmental specialist. From 2009 to present, I have been
14 employed in my current position at the Commission.

15
16 5. Q. Have you testified in prior proceedings before the Ohio Power Siting
17 Board?

18 A. Yes.

19
20 6. Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?

21 A. I am sponsoring the Staff Report of Investigation (Staff Report) that was
22 filed in the docket of this case on December 22, 2020. I managed the Staff

1 investigation and preparation of the Staff Report in this case. In addition, as
2 a signatory party, Staff supports the Joint Stipulation and Recommendation
3 that was filed in this docket on January 22, 2021.
4

5 7. Q. What kind of case is this?

6 A. In this case, the Applicant proposes to construct, own, and operate and
7 maintain a solar-powered generating facility to be located in Madison
8 County, Ohio. This facility would have the electrical generation capacity
9 of up to 196 MW.
10

11 8. Q. Please summarize Staff's investigation that was conducted in this case.

12 A. Staff's investigation included reviewing the application, conducting site
13 visits to the proposed facility location, acquiring additional information
14 from the Applicant, obtaining input from state agencies that compose the
15 Board along with other relevant state and federal agencies, and preparing
16 the Staff Report that presents Staff's analysis, conclusions, and
17 recommendations. As a result of Staff's investigation, Staff is
18 recommending that the Board approve the application for the proposed
19 Madison Solar Farm as proposed by Big Plain Solar, LLC, subject to the 27
20 conditions that are presented in the Joint Stipulation and Recommendation.

1 9. Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

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

PROOF OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing Prefiled Testimony of Andrew Conway, submitted on behalf of the Staff of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Power Siting Department, was served via electronic mail, upon the following parties of record, this 25th day of January, 2021.

/s/Jodi Bair

Jodi Bair

Assistant Attorney General

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Summary: Testimony of Andrew Conway electronically filed by Mrs. Tonnetta Y Scott on behalf of OPSB