

Emerson Creek Transmission Line
Case No: 19-1073-EL-BTX
Public Hearing
February 9, 2021

My name is Patricia Didion and I reside at Williams Road in Lyme Township, Bellevue, Ohio. I am in the Emerson Creek Wind Farm footprint. My husband and I built our home 52 years ago on land that has been in the family for many decades. Subsequently two other family members built their homes on the family land on Williams and Mead Rds. My late husband and his two brothers farm 950 acres in Sherman, Lyme and Ridgefield Townships. Little did we know when we built our home that we would be faced with this turbine issue today! We, and many others, **did not** sign a wind turbine lease and are strongly opposed to them for many reasons!

We reside very close to the proposed collection substation and overhead transmission lines. Our family owns 140 acres located on Williams, Mead and Yingling Roads in direct view of the proposed collection substation, several transmission lines in the west and north, an industrial sized 660 foot tall Turbine 23 in an immediate adjacent field, and Turbine 22 to the north close to State Route 113. A great deal of our land has road frontage. Actually several, if not all, Emerson Creek 650 foot turbines located within 5-10 miles of our home will be visible. We, and many other people, have been cast into an industrial zone on just about all sides of our properties.

Note: One cannot talk about the collection substation, the overhead and underground transmission lines, and the POI Point of Interconnect substation without referring to the 71 proposed 660 foot tall industrial sized wind turbines being widely spread throughout our rural landscapes, our townships and communities.

Landscape appeal has a lot to do with property value. Many rural residents cherish their unobstructed countryside views. Many, including me, want to look at the landscape and skies unimpeded by the 660 feet tall turbines, collection stations and overhead transmission lines.

Consequently, we are very concerned about our property value as are other non-lease holders. In 2010 appraiser Michael McCann, as quoted in *Paradise Destroyed*, testified to an Illinois Adams County Board about property devaluation due to wind farms. He concluded: "Real estate sale data typically reveals a range of 25% to 40% of value loss, with some instances of total loss as measured by abandonment and demolition of homes...." Many, many other studies also show property devaluation. However, few, if any, studies are available for 660 foot turbines which are those proposed for the Emerson Creek project.

The turbine noise, infrasound, shadow flicker, seismic vibrations, water issues, wildlife suppression, nighttime lighting, and potential for serious safety and real health risks decrease property appeal and value. People will not want to buy or build anything in an area that has all

Emerson Creek Transmission Line
Case No: 19-1073-EL-BTX
Public Hearing
February 9, 2021

of these huge problems. They will move away. I asked my grandson if he would want to build on our property with a turbine nearby and he said, “No!” Many, many people will say “No”.

Then, when we add the presence and issues of the collection substation, overhead H-frame transmission lines, linkage of underground lines with additional turbines and the point of interconnect substation, property values will decrease even further.

The issues related to the substations and transmission lines include noise, electrical and magnetic fields, interference with radio, TV, internet, Wi-Fi and microwave signals, potential for health risks, e.g. cancer/leukemia, loss and /or disturbance of wild life and their habitat, potential damage to existing gas lines, watersheds, and other environmental concerns.

The collection substation on Yingling Road is near a natural gas line. Many other gas lines exist in the proposed transmission line project. Also, the collection substation and a number of overhead lines and turbines sit on the Ohio Department of Natural Resources identified 2008 *Groundwater Contribution Zone for Flooded Area*. (Note: This was published in the Ohio Division of Natural Resources *Ground Water Induced Flooding in the Bellevue Ohio Area Spring and Summer 2008* report published in 2009. (See page 8.) In addition to the gas line and water issue, there is a deer crossing nearby. Thus, we see there are many issues contributing to the loss of property value and appeal for the residents and owners.

Next, I would like to speak to the **need** for the Emerson Creek Transmission Line. And again, one cannot speak to that without reference to the Emerson Creek Wind Farm. There is not a need for this project. We are fortunate to have a more than adequate long term supply of electricity available to us in Huron and Erie Counties, Ohio and many other states. We know the wind energy is not reliable. According to an April 2020 report from the Office of Nuclear Energy located in Washington, DC: “....Nuclear energy has been rolling up its sleeves for six decades now to provide constant, reliable carbon – free power to millions of Americans”.

The population density of Erie and Huron counties is significant. Why should we, as community members, suffer in so many ways to supply and sell expensive, unreliable, intermittent energy to others? This is a project benefitting those interested in tax credits and relying on governmental subsidies. Gregg Hubner in *Paradise Destroyed* reports, “...as we already know, the wind farm is not being built to harvest electricity or profit landowners – but to harvest the production tax credit and make a profit themselves.”

Why then do we destroy agricultural, residential areas in our communities for projects like these? Did you know they are not making any more land anywhere? Why keep taking rural, residential and agricultural land away and replacing it with massive turbines, collection

Emerson Creek Transmission Line
Case No: 19-1073-EL-BTX
Public Hearing
February 9, 2021

substations, H-framed poles, and points of interconnect stations? **Agriculture is one of Ohio's greatest industries.**

In conclusion, we see there is much at stake including the loss of real estate and country landscape values, increased health and safety hazards, harmful soil and watershed effects, wild life and environmental impacts. There is **no need** for the Emerson Creek Transmission Line and the related Emerson Creek Wind Farm project. I am asking you to please **deny** their certificates.

One additional comment: I would like to state that these virtual hearings have seriously hindered the ability of our community to participate and communicate their concerns. If any further hearings are conducted, I suggest that meetings are held with social distancing and use of mask and other precautions --- or postpone these meetings further until the virus threat has subsided.

Thank you for your time and consideration! It is appreciated very much!

Patricia A. Didion, 4765 Williams Road, Bellevue, Ohio 44811
Huron County; Lyme Township

References:

McCann, M. Testimony of Michael McCann on property value impacts in Adams County, Illinois. *Wind Action*, (June 8, 2010). Quoted in *Paradise Destroyed* by G. Hubner, 2017.

Ohio Division of Natural Resources. *Ground Water Induced Flooding in the Bellevue Ohio Area Spring and Summer 2008*. ODNR Division of Water Technical Report of investigation 2009-1. p. 8.

Hubner, G. & J. *Paradise Destroyed: The Destruction of Rural Living by the Wind Energy Scam*, Blue Blanket Creek Publishing. 2017.

Mueller, M. *Nuclear Power is the Most Reliable Energy Source and It's Not Even Close*. Office of Nuclear Energy. Washington, DC. April, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/ne/articles/nuclear-power-most-reliable-energy-source-and-its-not-even-close>

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

2/15/2021 1:45:55 PM

in

Case No(s). 19-1073-EL-BTX

Summary: Testimony Ms. Patricia Didion's testimony electronically filed by Mr. Ken Spencer on behalf of Armstrong & Okey, Inc.