

In the Matter of the Application of)
Kingwood Solar I LLC for a Certificate of) Case No. **21-0117-EL-BGN**
Environmental Compatibility and Public Need)

1 **Q. 1. Please state your name, title, and address.**

4 **Q. 2. What is your education and professional background?**

18 **Q. 3. On whose behalf are you offering testimony?**

1 **A. 3.** I present testimony on behalf of myself and on behalf of the Miami Township Board of
2 Trustees.

3 **Q. 4. What is your relationship with the Board of Trustees, Miami Township, Greene**
4 **County, Ohio?**

5 **A. 4.** I am one of three members of the Board of Trustees.

6 **Q. 5. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

7 **A. 5.** I provide this testimony in opposition to the Kingwood Solar Project (“Project”) on behalf
8 of myself and on behalf of the Miami Township Board of Trustees. On behalf of the Miami
9 Township Board of Trustees, I advocate for the Township, the township zoning plan, and the local
10 agricultural economy. On behalf of myself, I advocate for the local social fabric.

11 **Q. 6. Have you discussed the proposed Project with residents of Miami Township?**

12 **A. 6.** Yes, I have discussed the proposed Project with residents in various settings, informally,
13 on the street and in coffee shops, and more formally at Miami Township Trustee meetings and
14 Project-specific public meetings. In December 2018, the Miami Township Trustee’s hosted a
15 presentation from Dale Arnold of the Ohio Farm Bureau about landowner lease considerations for
16 solar facilities. I have also listened while citizens speak up about the Project at our Trustee
17 meetings. These citizens have been overwhelmingly in opposition to the Project. Most recently,
18 on February 11, 2022, eleven citizens spoke at our Township Trustee meeting in opposition to
19 Kingwood’s proposed solar project. I also attended two public meetings about the Project at the
20 Greene County Fairgrounds, one sponsored by the Greene County Commission and one by the
21 Ohio Power Siting Board. I discussed the Project with many people at these meetings, and I
22 listened to public comments given during the meeting concerning the Project.

Q. 7. Have you been able to assess an overall attitude from residents of Miami Township toward the Project?

A. 7. Yes, I have.

Q. 8. What is your overall assessment of the attitude of Miami Township residents to the Project?

A. 8. Miami Township residents support solar on their own roof tops and in various local settings. Some of their views are sophisticated, arguing for so-called “distributed power,” a form of decentralized power generation. They want much more investment in solar power integrated into current building and land use patterns. Residents cite, as positive examples, the solar array at the Assurant Insurance Company parking lot in Springfield and other local solar fields on properties owned by the Village of Yellow Springs, Antioch College and Cedarville University. However, they oppose removal of prime farmland from agricultural production for the installation of industrial-scale solar facilities, as has been proposed here.

Q. 9. What are the concerns that residents of Miami Township have for the Project?

A. 9. Most township residents see the proposed Kingwood Project as a massive disruption of their home, the landscape that they are accustomed to, and the development and land use plan they adopted. When they discuss specifics, Residents refer to visual intrusion, increased maintenance from truck traffic in all seasons, road degradation, decrease in property values, removal of forested areas and fence row vegetation (i.e., removal of ecological services), blocking deer and other wildlife travel by fencing, disruption of drainage tiles and streams through construction and erosion, possible impact to insects and birds from solar panel reflection glare, and the process and result of shuttering the facility. Residents tell of unexpected aspects of other industrial solar installations, such as where the mechanism for shifting panel angles makes loud noises similar to

1 gunshots. They ask who they could report problems to with expectation of prompt reply and
2 remedy.

3 **Q. 10. What is the position of the Miami Township Board of Trustees regarding the Project?**

4 **A. 10.** On November 15, 2021, the Miami Township Board of Trustee passed Resolution 2021-
5 45 titled, Ohio Power Siting Board Objection. The Resolution made clear that Miami Township
6 opposed the Kingwood Solar Project. Nothing has changed that opposition between then and now.
7 We have a responsibility to our citizens to sustain the vision and plan for our rural township. Four
8 hundred ten thousand solar panels distributed across fifteen-hundred acres of prime agricultural
9 land is not part of that vision and plan. We are also very concerned about effective monitoring and
10 oversight of the Project if it receives approval. Who will enforce setbacks, fencing standards, noise
11 complaints, road damage, drainage tile damage, erosion, downstream drainage issues, and other
12 environmental consequences of this industrial facility? Kingwood's application is vague on these
13 points.

14 **Q. 11. Are you personally familiar with the location proposed for the Project?**

15 **A. 11.** Yes, I am. I grew up in Miami Township, and I regularly drive the local roads to monitor
16 road and neighborhood conditions.

17 **Q. 12. Do you personally think the Project will negatively impact Miami Township, Greene**
18 **County, Ohio?**

19 **A. 12.** Yes, I do.

20 **Q. 13. How do you personally think the Project will impact Miami Township?**

21 **A. 13.** The people of Miami Township have worked to maintain and preserve the area, which is
22 comprised of 17,600 acres with two villages, Yellow Springs and Clifton, including 12,000 acres
23 of active farmland (CAUV tax rate). The geographic core of Miami Township is the Little Miami

1 River. The Little Miami River is Ohio's first formally recognized Scenic River, flowing from the
2 northeast to southwest. The Little Miami is straddled by the Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve
3 (268 acres), John Bryan State Park (752 acres), Glen Helen Nature Preserve (1150 acres), Boy
4 Scout Camp Birch (440 acres) and 4-H Camp Clifton (78 acres).

5 Miami Township was an early township to adopt local zoning in the 1950s with a vision to
6 protect the local agricultural economy as the Dayton metropolitan area spread. In the 1960s, Glen
7 Helen, the Boy Scouts, the 4-H and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources established the
8 Country Common with the goal of maintaining the open space area between State Route 343
9 (connecting Yellow Springs and Clifton villages) on the north, Clifton Road on the south and the
10 Little Miami bike trail (then railroad right of way) on the west. In 2010, the Township held a series
11 of "visioning" meetings to review citizen opinions on long-term development. Miami Township's
12 long-standing plan to maintain a mix of village life, farming related business and nature preserves
13 was affirmed at that time. Though parts of the proposed project area are in Cedarville and Xenia
14 Townships, most of the acreage is in Miami Township. In Miami Township alone, the Project
15 would remove roughly 10% of prime farmland. The Project is a huge diversion from the zoning
16 and land-use planning adopted and affirmed by the Township community.

17 The Project area includes Clark Run creek, which runs parallel to dedicated natural areas
18 mentioned above. Clark Run is a direct tributary of the Little Miami River. At one stretch
19 Kingwood would also be directly across Clifton Road from Camp Clifton. Consequently, any
20 environmental missteps, such as erosion, drainage issues, or noise pollution will have a direct and
21 immediate effect on the Little Miami, Camp Clifton, and the surrounding natural area.

22 The project area is one of Ohio's treasured natural areas. It is a destination for bicyclists
23 and hikers and a place where people can fish and canoe. It is a place where people have worked

1 to balance town life, farming, recreation and outdoor education. The Project threatens the
2 community's planned way of life, and the ecologically rich character of the area. The Kingwood
3 Solar Project should not be built in the area.

4 **Q. 14. Does this conclude your direct, written testimony?**

5 **A. 14.** Yes, although I reserve the right to offer additional testimony on behalf of myself and the
6 Miami Township Board of Trustees, as may be necessary. Thank you for listening.

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities
Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

2/28/2022 1:40:23 PM

in

Case No(s). 21-0117-EL-BGN

Summary: Testimony Direct Testimony of Don Hollister electronically filed by Mr.
Lee A Slone on behalf of Miami Township, Greene County, Ohio, Board of Trustees