

BEFORE THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD

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| In the Matter of the Application of Kingwood Solar I LLC for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need |)))) | Case No. 21-117-EL-BGN |
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SUPPLEMENTAL TESTIMONY OF ANDREW ENGLISH

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

A.1. My name is Andrew English and I am an owner and principal landscape architect at PLANIT Studios (“PLANIT”). My business address is 500 W. Wilson Bridge Rd., Suite 314, Worthington, Ohio 43085.

Q.2. On whose behalf are you offering testimony?

A.2. I am testifying on behalf of the Applicant, Kingwood Solar I LLC (“Applicant”), in support of the Joint Stipulation and Recommendation as to certificate conditions (“Joint Stipulation”), which was filed on March 4, 2022.

Q.3. Did you previously provide testimony on behalf of the Applicant?

A.3. Yes, I provided direct testimony that was filed on February 23, 2022.

Q.4. Did you review the Joint Stipulation?

A.4. Yes. I reviewed the Joint Stipulation, with particular focus on Condition 16 and the enhanced screening plan incorporated into and attached to the Joint Stipulation through that condition.

Q.5. Did you prepare the enhanced screening plan for the Project?

A.5. Yes. At the request of the Applicant, I prepared the enhanced screening plan for the Project. That screening plan is referenced in Condition 16 and is attached to the Joint Stipulation. It is also attached to this testimony as Attachment A.

1 **Q.6. How does the screening plan you prepared for the Joint Stipulation compare to the**
2 **screening plan that was included in the Application?**

3 **A.6.** The screening plan prepared by Haley & Aldrich in April of 2021 (the “2021 Plan”)
4 does a good job identifying visual screening areas. Our screening plan expands on that
5 plan and also identifies the existing vegetative buffers located throughout the project.
6 Identifying these areas shows that a large portion of this project will be screened either by
7 natural buffers or by newly created visual buffers. In some areas, we also extended the
8 buffers proposed on the 2021 Plan, such as to reduce views from Wilberforce Clifton Road
9 and OH-72. In total, an additional 4,000 linear feet of vegetative screening has been added
10 since the 2021 Plan was submitted.

11 **Q.7. In your opinion, do you think the screening plan referenced in and attached to the**
12 **Joint Stipulation is an improvement over the screening plan that was included in the**
13 **Application?**

14 **A.7.** Yes. The new screening plan that is part of the Joint Stipulation is an improvement
15 because, as described above, additional screening has been added to the original plan
16 submitted. The additional 4,000 linear feet of buffering will significantly add to the visual
17 screening throughout the project. Also, it was critical to identify the existing vegetative
18 buffers, as many of these buffers will provide an immediate impact in visually screening
19 the project from adjacent properties.

20 **Q.8. Do you support Condition 16 in the Joint Stipulation?**

21 **A.8.** Yes. The commitments made in the Application, coupled with this condition, will
22 adequately reduce or minimize the potential visual impacts associated with the Project.
23 The condition ensures that at a minimum the Applicant will implement the screening

1 modules proposed in the locations identified in Attachment A to my testimony. The
2 condition also takes into account that the landscaping plan will be updated prior to
3 construction as a result of communications with non-participating property owners with a
4 direct line of sight to the Project Area at any time of year. The plan will be developed in
5 consultation with an Ohio-licensed landscape architect prior to commencement of any
6 construction.

7 As I explained in my direct testimony, there are two important prongs to proposed
8 Condition 16 that will insure the effectiveness of mitigation for adjacent, non-participating
9 landowners. First, the Applicant will replace and/or substitute any failed plantings during
10 the first five years after construction to ensure that at least 90% of the vegetation has
11 survived as of the five-year point. The purpose of the five-year period is to allow plantings
12 to become established, after which time plant survival is likely to increase. Second,
13 Condition 16 requires the Applicant to maintain vegetative screening for the life of the
14 Project. As shown in the landscape mitigation plan, screening for the Project will consist
15 of various landscape screening modules. To ensure that screening modules are functioning
16 as designed for the life of the Project, the second prong requires the Applicant to replace
17 and/or substitute failed plantings within a screening module if necessary to ensure the
18 screening module remains effective at that location. The requirement in Condition 16 to
19 maintain vegetative screening for the life of the Project will ensure that any plant die-off
20 during the life of the Project will not result in gaps in screening modules.

21 Additionally, the condition also directs the Applicant to implement a lighting plan.
22 Specifically, to minimize impacts, the Applicant must utilize motion-activated lights that
23 will be downward facing (or fitted with side shields) to narrowly focus light inward towards

1 the facility. Again, because there may be changes in the lighting plan as a result of
2 communication with non-participating property owners, the condition requires the plan to
3 be updated prior to construction.

4 **Q.9. Is Joint Stipulation Condition 16 in the public interest?**

5 **A.9.** Yes. The addition of the revised screening plan as a minimum level of screening
6 for the Project provides an additional 4,000 linear feet of vegetative screening. The
7 requirements in Condition 16 will ensure that the three planting modules proposed in the
8 Application will provide visual screening, soften the horizontal line created by the
9 installation of the solar panels, and aid in blending the Project into the surrounding
10 landscape. Additionally, the use of native plant species will also provide environmental
11 benefits to native wildlife and pollinator species. Based on my prior experience in Ohio,
12 mitigation strategies of this type have been successful in reducing and minimizing visual
13 impact. Finally, the condition also ensures that the Project lighting incorporates mitigating
14 designs to reduce impacts from the Project.

15 **Q.10. Does this conclude your supplemental testimony?**

16 **A.10.** Yes, it does.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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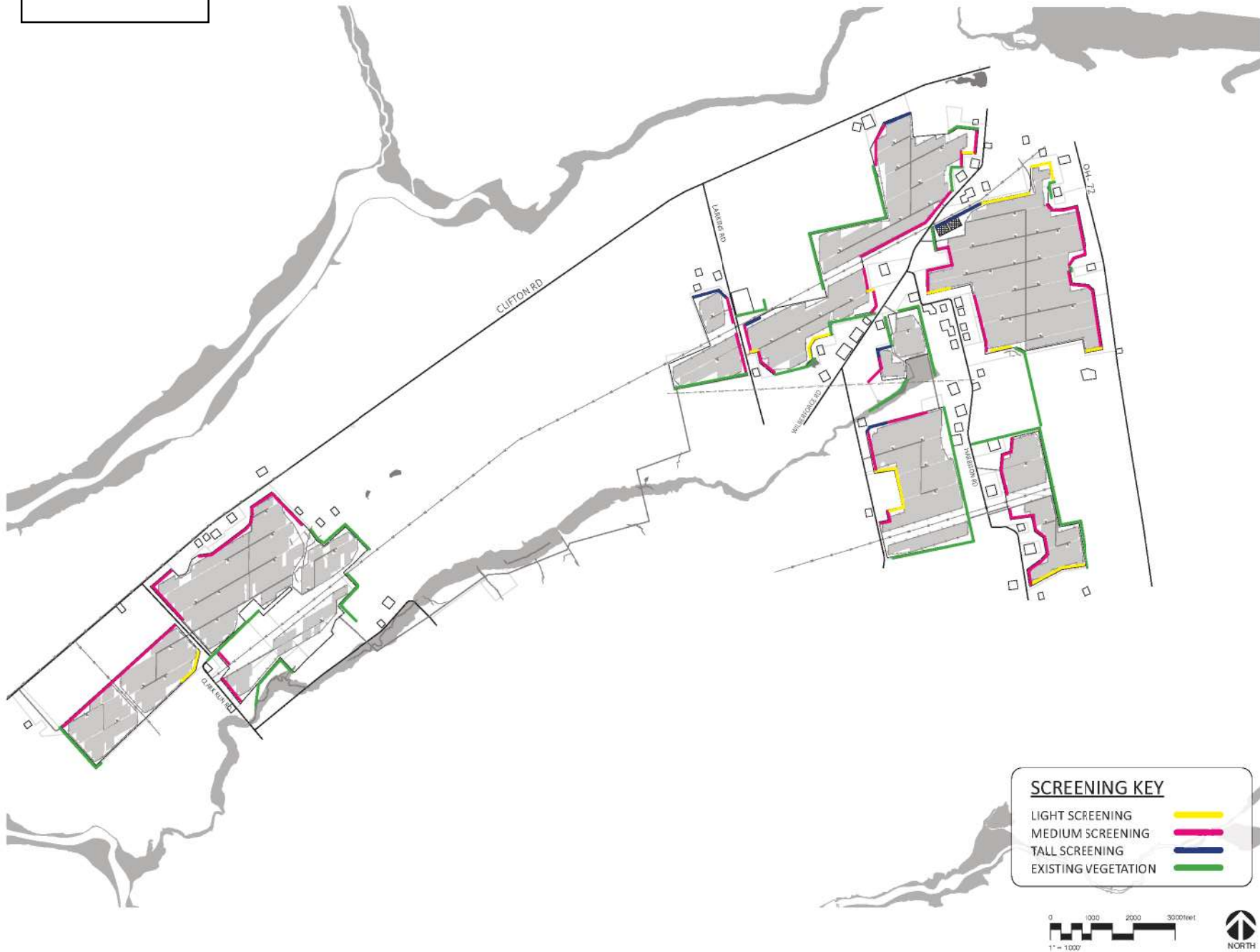
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Attachment A



KINGWOOD SOLAR
GREENE COUNTY, OHIO

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Summary: Testimony Supplemental Testimony of Andrew English electronically
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