

**NOBLE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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PUCO

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RECEIVED-BOOKETING DIV

April 30, 2012**Chairman Todd A. Snitchler****The Public Utilities Commission****180 E. Broad Street****Columbus, Ohio 43215**

RE: In the Matter of the Long-Term Forecast Reports of Ohio Power Company and Columbus Southern Power Company and Related Matters (PUCO Case Nos. 10-501-EL-FOR and 10-502-EL-FOR)

TPS: Part of a Balanced Approach to Economic Development

- 1) We believe that our region is best served by an economic development strategy--and an energy generation strategy--that is a balanced one. We are excited by the prospects associated with new oil and gas production technologies that should bring substantial job and wealth creation to the Appalachian Ohio region. Yet as important as oil and gas drilling is likely to be to the future of our state, we in rural southeastern Ohio deserve to benefit also from a renewable energy future that deploys hydropower, waste heat recovery, clean coal, and solar strategies, to name just a few pathways that have direct relevance to this part of the state. The 50 mw Turning Point Solar array allows the southeastern region of our state to participate in a balanced approach to energy generation and to do so in a meaningful way.

Substantial Environmental Benefits: Green Energy from Marginal Lands

- 2) One asset (some might say liability) that our region of the state possesses in abundance is land that has been mined, and which is sometimes reclaimed, (and, if the mining occurred long enough ago) sometimes not. The development group at Turning Point Solar and AEP deserve much praise for figuring out a way to put some 700 acres of reclaimed land, once mined by the Big Muskie (the largest dragline and shovel ever used by humankind), to a constructive use. Indeed, large stretches of Appalachian Ohio might be viewed as a utility scale solar project waiting to happen: seemingly endless acreage of marginal land, with few remaining environmental obstacles to development, that are crisscrossed by transmission lines—lines that were needed in a previous era to bring electricity to the giant shovels.

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Significant Direct Job Creation

- 3) We are grateful for the focus that the developers of the Turning Point Solar project have placed on job creation in Ohio. The construction and installation of the 50 mw project will result in more than 300 job-years...or to put it another way, over 100 construction jobs will be created in each of the three phases in which the array is to be built. These jobs are badly-needed, even with the strong prospects of the oil and gas industry, and these jobs will be filled, almost without exception, by Ohioans.

TPS: Building Out an Ohio Supply Chain

- 4) In addition, the developers of the Turning Point Solar project believe that close to 85 percent of the goods and services required for the construction of the project will be sourced in Ohio, beginning with the acquisition of close to 250,000 solar panels from a Napoleon, Ohio-based supplier. This supplier, Isofoton North America, agreed to locate its factory in Napoleon when this order was secured. When fully operational, more than 300 permanent manufacturing jobs will be created at the Napoleon plant.

TPS: A Rural Project with Rural Benefits

- 5) Indeed, the rural focus of the project is worth special attention and commendation. The lion's share of technology-based economic development occurs in urban parts of the state or in the immediate vicinity of research universities. The benefits of the Turning Point Solar project will be primarily enjoyed by rural and small-town residents in economically-challenged parts of southeastern and northwestern Ohio, due to construction and installation of the project in Noble County and the establishment of a panel manufacturing factory in Napoleon.

Please docket this letter in PUCO Case Nos. 10-501-EL-FOR and 10-502-EL-FOR.

Sincerely,

Noble County Commissioner

Robert Mann
