



## Power Siting Board

John R. Kasich, Governor  
Todd A. Snitchler, Chairman

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### Board Members

November 1, 2012

Scott Nally  
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Glenn and Diane Morefield  
2146 Talbott Road  
Mechanicsburg, Ohio 43044

Christiane Schmenk  
Ohio Development Services Agency

Theodore E. Wymyslo, M.D.  
Ohio Department of Health

Re: Buckeye II Wind Farm  
Case No. 12-0160-EL-BGN

Jim Zelvinger  
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Mr. Glenn Morefield,

David Daniels  
Ohio Department of Agriculture

Jeffery J. Lechak, P.E.  
Public Member

Thank you for your input regarding the proposed Buckeye II Wind Farm. I have docketed your letter in the public comments section of the record in case number 12-0160-EL-BGN.

Louis W. Blessing Jr.  
Ohio House of Representatives

As you may be aware, the OPSB held a local public hearing was held in North Lewisburg, Ohio on Thursday, October 25, 2012. The adjudicatory proceedings of the case will begin on Thursday, November 8, 2012 at the Board's offices in downtown Columbus.

Sandra Williams  
Ohio House of Representatives

Shannon Jones  
Ohio Senate

To view all activity pertaining to this case, siting application, and/or rules governing the installation and operation of wind energy in Ohio, visit the Ohio Power Siting Board's website at [www.OPSB.ohio.gov](http://www.OPSB.ohio.gov).

Tom Sawyer  
Ohio Senate

Again, the Board thanks you for your interest.

Very truly yours,

Kim Wissman, Executive Director  
Ohio Power Siting Board

KW: sai

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Glenn and Dian Morefield

2146 Talbott Road  
Mechanicsburg, Ohio

The Ohio Power Siting Board  
Attn: Case# 12-0160-EL-BGN  
180 East Broad St  
Columbus, Oh 43215

We are land owners and participants in the Buckeye Wind Project.

Just to provide reference, we retired from active duty Military, after 24 years' service. After retirement I continue to support Military communication projects worldwide while Dian set sights on establishing a farm that we both dreamed of throughout our Military service. We were both raised in Oklahoma and still have family living there. We are also land owners in Oklahoma through property we inherited.

We are now land owners and proud residents of Ohio; we have been for over 14 years.

With a great interest in our community, we have tracked the pros and cons of the Buckeye Wind Project and have come to the conclusion this is a step in the right direction and should be approved. Not only does it make Ohio residents more self-sufficient, it is the right thing for the environment and future generations.

We have heard the beliefs that; wind generators are hazardous and need special setbacks, are harmful to the Indiana Bats, will not provide any advantage to the community or Ohio, and the generators are just a plain eye sores. Please let me discuss each of these from our prospective.

I will not argue that Wind generators do not have the potential of being hazardous but what today doesn't. I do disagree the level of hazard is sufficient to warrant stopping the project. When put into perspective with the hazard of our everyday life I think it is obvious the wind generator risk is minimal. We move around in our community without giving a lot of extra thought to the dangers presented by automobiles, airplanes, and people/factions that want to do us and or our nation harm. At least we don't consider them serious enough to standup and stop it at any cost.

Yes, winds Generators do have the potential of physical failure and non-visible health risks. The point was stressed that the noise made by the generators and the flicker can be harmful. This is true but is the number of Generators and volume of the noise great enough to over shadow the same type noise and risk created by cars, airplanes, and other items in our daily lives? I would find it very doubtful since the very risks identified on Wind Generators can be found in all of our modes of transportation and power sources we use today. In a lot of cases the risk and noise of these items is at greater levels than from Wind Generators. We have just grown so accustom to these noises and risks they seem to disappear. There has been discussion and fear of the risks created high power lines over head. The fact that electrical current is traveling down these lines

creates lines of flux around the lines and this is believed to cause all sorts of health problems. This has not been totally expelled nor confirmed but we still move and live around these risks daily. These power lines also create noise that is most prominent to the human ear during periods of high humidity. The noise exists and is no more or less a threat than that from the Wind Generators. Cars, airplanes, the self-propelled farm equipment all create noises as they move just as the propellers of the Wind Generators. Anything that moves creates a noise similar to the Wind Generators just at different intensities. In most cases we have tuned these noises out as we have grown accustomed to them and accept it as a way of life. Power lines and modes of transportation have never been seen as needing a certain amount of setback probably because of the added inconvenience it would create so the trend is to ignore it.

All risks do warrant special setbacks some ignored but in the case of those associated with wind generators I truly believe Everpower is taking the steps to protect the public with proper setback. Some groups say there are no real wind farms for them to evaluate to know the true risk. In my Military travels I have been to Manama Bahrain where on the Bahrain Trade Center Building there are three large wind generators stacked above one another at various heights between the two towers. (This internet link shows the building <http://www.panoramio.com/photo/57362074> the photo is also inserted at the end of this document). This is an office building where people work daily and there is no setback. I do not profess that Bahrain should set the standard but there is definitely an opportunity to evaluate the impact on the public. This is also a country that does not need alternative power sources and I find it doubtful they would recklessly put their people at risk.

My travels also took me to Stuttgart Germany, as you go in to Europe you see a very large number of Wind generators. Germany obviously has a problem with sustained wind but they found justification to try renewable energy as they face the same dependency for creating electrical power as we do. Germany should not be one to set our standard but again there are wind farms to benchmark when evaluate the environmental impact. As we come back to the United States I have to look no further than the state my wife and I were born in, Oklahoma. In Minco Oklahoma and Medicine Park Oklahoma you see wind farms all over. Yes, Oklahoma has more wind than Ohio but to say there are no active wind farms to evaluate the environmental impact on is just not accurate. I would suggest, with confidence, Everpower does know the impact and has not perused this venture with blinders on nor in an uncaring manner towards society. They have to be good stewards of the community themselves to succeed. I would also like to point out the wind farms in Oklahoma have not decreased the value of our property there. Our relatives in Oklahoma say they actually enjoy seeing the generators. They think they are very fascinating to look at.

As far as an eye sore, beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Having said that I would also point out we as the public have grown accustomed to the highline poles everywhere you look. Anywhere you see a generator you will most definitely see highline poles and cell towers. If the poles are not right there then they are very near or on the horizon. No one has bad things to say about all of these poles because we see them as part of everyday life; they have just always been there. So again, beauty is in the eye of the beholder. An eye sore is not a valid discriminator in this decision.

Indiana Bats, I'm not sure this is not just a rally call because I have not seen Indiana bats in my area. I am not a bat expert so I cannot say for certain. What I do know is the 3 colonies of bats that I cannot get out of the roof of my home are very annoying. Bats do not make good ambassadors for their self-preservation. None the less we do need to protect them which takes me to the next subject. Wind generators operate over a 100 feet in the air. The bats around my house fly from ground level to approximately 40 feet above ground. I'm sure they fly higher at times but not that often. So I do not understand the constant hazard wind generators are claimed to create for bats but again I am not an expert. The other side is if the opponents to wind farms don't think we have enough active wind farms to evaluate the human impact how did they determine the impact to bats? What I do know is that I along with many others in the community have created a more harmful environment for the bats by moving into the wooded areas and clearing land to build homes than a wind generator could. A bats natural habitat is wooded areas near farm land. If there is a true risk to bats, to find the cause, we as home owners need look no further than the mirror.

When it comes to benefits to the community I wonder who would tell that one person, without a job today, the Wind project that will create jobs of some type is too great a risk and not worth it. There is always residual jobs created on any project of this size and some of those will be long term. Saying there is no benefit to the community seems more of a disconnected in understanding what makes a community thrive.

One of the many things that make this country great is the freedom of speech so I in no way want to limit or belittle anyone that speaks out for or against this project but I do think it needs to be looked at logically and with common sense.

On the Pro side it would seem a definite advantage to the farmers/ land owners that lease property for this project. We all, at least through association, should be very aware there are extreme ups and downs in farming so any financial support created for the farmer is a strong plus. This plus works in favor of all of us but it may not be seen until we go to the market next time. Who better than the farmer knows the impact the Wind farms will have on usefulness of their property in the form of field tiles, ground compacting, and the ability to farm around the generators. An outsider looking in is not usually the expert.

Just the nature of a project this size is to create a lot of jobs or business in direct support of the project during implementation as well as during the sustainment phase. You would also have increased work for those industries that are not front page on the project like restaurants and various producers of expendable supplies.

With the growing need to protect our environment and the ever increasing restrictions and limitations we place on all resources, we must come up with more ways to produce the electrical power we use and need. To think one solution will meet all is very wrong and self-destructive. There must be a mix of energy producing processes. Wind power needs to be one of the resources we add to our portfolio. If we can produce electrical energy locally though wind power we are less reliant on surrounding states but at the same time become better neighbors in doing our part to protect the environment.

**Local Wind Farms are a Win Win situation for Ohio!**

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Glenn C. Morefield".

Glenn C. Morefield

**Bahrain Trade Center Building**

