

Irwin, Steven

From: ContactOPSB
Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2012 9:09 AM
To: pmhtgh@gmail.com
Cc: ContactOPSB
Subject: RE: OPSB-ContactUs

Mr. Thomas & Paula Higgins,

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.

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. The OPSB welcomes comments from the general public, including local residents and all stakeholders in the project.

Again, the Board thanks you for your interest.

Thanks,

Steve

Steve Irwin
Public Outreach Coordinator
Ohio Power Siting Board
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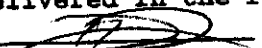
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2012 DEC 27 AM 10:05
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-----Original Message-----

From: OPSB-ContactUs [<mailto:webmaster@puc.state.oh.us>]
Sent: Wednesday, December 26, 2012 12:52 PM
To: ContactOPSB
Subject: OPSB-ContactUs

This form was sent at: Dec 26, 2012 12:52 PM

CONTACT_REASON: Comment
TITLE: Mr.
FIRST_NAME: Thomas & Paula
LAST_NAME: Higgins
EMAIL: pmhtgh@gmail.com
PHONE_NUMBER: 614-555-5555
ALTERNATIVE_PHONE_NUMBER: 614-555-5555
STREET_ADDRESS1:
STREET_ADDRESS2:
CITY:
STATE: OH
ZIP:

This is to certify that the images appearing are an accurate and complete reproduction of a case file document delivered in the regular course of business
Technician  Date Processed **DEC 27 2012**

COUNTY: Champaign
COUNTRY: USA
COMPANY_NAME:
CASE_NUMBER: 12-0160-EL-BGN
COMMENTS: December 26, 2012

Let me first state that I live in Champaign County, am not a leaseholder, and will be impacted by the Buckeye Wind turbine projects. My husband and I are transplants from Massachusetts - when his company decided to invest in Champaign County. Weidmann Technology closed their factories in Massachusetts and Missouri and purchased a paper mill in Urbana in order to consolidate operations and make their own paper. Many locals were hired and trained by my husband. We decided to relocate as an opportunity to move away from city life and experience "Middle America". We purchased a home in rural Woodstock, just north of Urbana in 2011. We have unobstructed views of both sunrise and sunset. We were settling in when we were told about the turbine project - we had no idea we would be in the middle of this wind farm. Neither the homeowner nor realtor disclosed this to us - we would have looked elsewhere if we had known. We are investing in this community but feel like we have no say in what happens here. Our unobstructed views of sunrise & sunset are going to be taken away by turbines east & west of our home.

I have been to some meetings held by opponents of the turbine project and tried to keep an open mind. My issue is not with the turbines themselves but with the location close to homes and especially with the nondisclosure clause in the leases to the landowners. This project will affect the entire community - it will change the demographics over time. For what? Very few will profit from this venture. All who live here spend their money in this community, we buy locally as much as possible. In the long term isn't this a better arrangement? What businesses will the turbines invest in? The tradeoff is a sad thing - the people of Champaign County have more to offer the entire community from an economic standpoint than private landowners making secret deals that negatively impact so many.

We feel that the subject of wind turbines in Champaign County is an issue for the entire community to vote on - not just those who have the most acreage. They do not represent the county - they represent themselves. My biggest fear is not being able to sell the house when it comes time to retire. I see all the for sale signs close to my home - we committed to spending 50k to renovate this home but now I see we may not ever recoup this. Many feel trapped in an area soon to be surrounded by turbines and not able to move away. Would foreclosure be the answer? How many foreclosures before the county begins to feel the fiscal result?

Perhaps if the turbine team had been up front with the community in lieu of making leaseholders sign nondisclosure documents, perhaps if they had not been so aggressive in mapping out the entire county with over a hundred turbines. We should not be forced to live with this unwanted, untested technology so close to our homes. This community we are trying hard to fit in with is now divided - it's uncomfortable for us and so many others. We brought our dreams to Ohio and have been crushed by selfish landowners with personal agendas.

Thomas & Paula Higgins
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