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Irwin, Steven

13-0990-EL-BGN

From: Puco ContactOPSB
Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2014 10:00 AM
To: Kate Michaelson
Cc: Puco ContactOPSB
Subject: RE: Case 13-0090-EL-GBN

Ms. Kate Michaelson,

Thank you for your interest in the Greenwich Windpark, Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) Case No. 13-0990-EL-BGN. Your comments will be filed and made publically available in the case docket.

I would encourage you to review the Staff Report of Investigation for this project, which represents the OPSB Staff's recommendation to the Board. After an extensive review of Greenwich Windpark's proposal, the OPSB Staff found that that, "Due to the low potential to impact land use, cultural resources, streams, wetlands, wildlife, communications, non-participating residents, and the Staff's recommended conditions to mitigate these impacts, Staff concludes that the project represents the minimum adverse environmental impact." [Staff Report, pg. 43] The minimum environmental impact is outlined by Ohio Revised Code section 4906.10(A)(3).

Ultimately, the decision to certificate the project is determined by the Board. As such, the case is currently pending before the Board. Information about the project will be continuously updated on the OPSB website, www.opsb.ohio.gov.

Again, thank you for contacting the OPSB. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance,

Steve

Steve Irwin
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From: Kate Michaelson [mailto:kmichaelson7@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 12, 2014 11:23 AM
To: Puco ContactOPSB
Subject: Case 13-0090-EL-GBN

Greetings,

I'm writing in regards to a proposed wind farm project in Greenwich, OH (case 13-0090-EL-GBN). As a property owner in the area, I'm very concerned with the effect a major wind farm could have on the value of the land. In our rural farming community, the property that many of us own is both our main source of income and our primary financial asset. While the proposed wind farm may create a few (literally 2-3) jobs in our community, the negative financial effects on our land value far outweigh the potential positives for the vast majority of us.

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Aside from the financial issues, I am concerned with potential health risks posed by noise pollution from the wind turbines. I was, at first, skeptical about this issue myself because I'd been around wind turbines occasionally and had never noticed the noise. However, upon reading peer-reviewed research from medical centers and universities, I have come to understand that (in addition to its interference with sleep and concentration) studies show that the constant exposure to strong, low-level noise can pose significant cardiovascular health risks over time. Research has shown that long-term exposure to this same type of low-level noise in the workplace has resulted in thickening of the heart and vascular walls. While it's sometimes difficult to understand how something almost inaudible can affect our health, these studies and others show that we are only beginning to comprehend how constant exposure to low-level sound impacts our health. As with many emerging technology and pollutants, we need time to understand how a new phenomenon affects us, but entire communities should not have to serve as lab rats as we wait and see how harmful this technology truly is.

In addition to the data, there is a plethora of anecdotal evidence from those who live near wind farms. Many individuals who have experienced life before and after an industrial wind farm moving into their community have since dedicated their time and resources to fighting this movement on an industrial scale. Even if there was not data documenting the negative effects of industrial wind farms on communities (which there is), I would be inclined to wonder why so many people who have experienced this phenomenon first-hand are so dedicated to stopping it. While I've always been a supporter of green technology and energy production, we must not rush to replace one source of energy with another that may be even more harmful.

Our community deserves another chance to openly discuss and debate this issue before allowing this project to begin. Most members of our community are only now hearing about this debate and becoming informed on how it will impact their lives. It would be immoral to allow this project to go forward with such great public concern and so many questions yet to be answered. Please don't allow an international corporation to coopt our community. Please do not let case 13-0090-EL-GBN proceed!

Thanks for your time,
Kate Michaelson
Property Owner in Greenwich, OH