

FILE

13-0990-EL-BGN

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From: vogelja@frontier.com [mailto:vogelja@frontier.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2014 9:42 PM
To: Puco ContactOPSB
Cc: vogelja@frontier.com
Subject: Greenwich Windpark - 13-0990-EL-BGN

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August 20, 2014

Dear Members of the Ohio Power Siting Board,

The clock is ticking for members living in or near the proposed Greenwich Windpark (13-0990-EL-BGN). You hold our futures in your hands when you vote on August 25. Your decision will determine whether or not our families will retain the right to enjoy our properties. Your decision will impact our financial futures. We have poured almost all we have into our homes and fear drastic drops in market price should we decide (or need) to sell.

Much of our community is living in fear and frustrated with the entire process of establishing commercial wind projects. The average homeowner has no power, our township trustees feel powerless, and the same is true of our county commissioners. How can this multi-million dollar project simply be thrust upon us?

Many residents distrust Windlab and believe citizens were left in the dark intentionally. Keeping citizens in the dark as long as possible allowed the project to reach this level without debating publicly the pros and cons of the project. We simply do not understand how a project purported to be so beneficial to our area was kept a secret for so long. Please do not approve the Greenwich Windpark. Instead, require Windlab to meet with concerned citizens before considering approval.

If our concerns are so readily dismissed by Windlab before construction even begins, how much more will they be dismissed if the project goes forward? Ms. Bloomfield does her best to make our comments seem trivial. However, I looked at the maps attached to her comments dated 8/19/14, and I reread portions of Exhibit P. Windlab states that residences up to 3,838 feet from turbines may experience shadow flicker. She dismissed comments of residents within that range. Even though they may be exposed to turbine effects, many homeowners living within that distance are not participating landowners or adjacent landowners. If you look back Figure 2 of the sound study, you will see that many of the homes she dismisses are located well within the one-mile project buffer boundary. Windlab knows some of these people will receive effects from the turbines, whether it is noise, flicker, infrasound, or loss of marketability of their homes. We do not yet know if the effects will be negligible or disruptive, but her dismissive attitude continues to drive our distrust for Windlab. Ms. Bloomfield urges you to disregard their testimony. I beg you to do the opposite – reread our letters and really hear our concerns.

Why should the comments of those not directly in the project matter? They matter because this is home. I live only 4.3 miles from where I grew up. The authors of these letters recognize that their children and grandchildren may also choose to live in Greenwich and/or one of the neighboring townships. We must protect the possibility of raising families here. Ms. Bloomfield's maps of letter-writers show life-long friends of participating landowners opposed to the project. It also shows concerned relatives of participating landowners opposed the project. Our community is fracturing due to this project.

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As far as the Mr. Ledet's survey, there was nothing underhanded about the way it was administered. This small grass-roots group does not have lawyers helping them, and many felt it was vital that the information reached the Power Siting Board as quickly as possible. Of course, two people from the same household might sign the same survey. Why couldn't they? In fact, most participating landowners' letters in support of the project contained two or more signatures. Ms. Bloomfield felt it was illogical for someone being paid and under a binding contract to oppose the project. I can think of a logical reason they would oppose the project – they are also learning about negative issues that can accompany turbines sited close to residents. Maybe they are listening and researching the issue. Maybe they are worried too. These are good people. I imagine many of them have concerns. However, due to confidentiality clauses, their voices are muted too.

The letters Ms. Bloomfield referenced in her August 19 document represent pleas from members of our community to have our voices heard. We have no one to represent us except for this Board. We are not overzealous anti-wind activists. We are just average citizens concerned about our future.

We need you to stand up for us.

At the very least, require Windlab to meet with the concerned public before considering approval.

Sincerely,

Audrey Vogel

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