

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Ohio Energy Mandate Study Committee
FROM: Kevin Ledet, Chairperson, Greenwich Neighbors United
Cc: Governor Kasich, Ohio Power Siting Board
DATE: March 10, 2015
RE: Energy Mandates/GNU's Story

I am writing on behalf of Greenwich Neighbors United (GNU) to urge the Ohio General Assembly to repeal or indefinitely suspend the annual escalation in compliance quantities specified as part of Ohio's energy mandates, including the renewable mandate. GNU is a large and growing group of local property owners who have joined together to coordinate our efforts to voice concerns about a proposed industrial-size wind farm in Huron County. The proposed wind farm that brought forth our concerns and the formation of GNU is described in Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB), Case No. 13-990-EL-BGN.

In the summer of 2014, many residents of Greenwich began to understand the real significance of the proposed wind farm development that would be erected in our backyard. The developer had filed an application for a certificate with the OPSB and was seeking authorization to install 25 wind turbines, each 490.5 feet tall with rotor diameters of up to 383 feet, and covering 4,650 acres of land. As we started to learn more about the dangers and harmful impacts of the developer's invasion plans, members of our community began to frantically write letters and e-mail messages to the OPSB, many of which you can find in the "public comment" section of OPSB's case file. Unfortunately and as the OPSB was moving the certificate application along quite quickly, it took us a while to realize that our concerns and interests were less likely to be taken into account unless we hired an attorney and intervened in the OPSB proceeding. We are a group of neighbors, many of us farmers, who did not understand the OPSB's formal process or that the concerns expressed in our letters and e-mail messages might be ignored by the OPSB unless we became a "party" to the case. However, we did know that the wind farm that was being proposed would ruin our tranquil rural community and deprive us of our fundamental rights to hold and enjoy property. Along the way, we began to realize that that the OPSB was not looking out for us and it was going to be up to us to make sure our concerns were addressed before the for-profit wind farm developer was allowed to move forward.

As we came to better appreciate the risk of not being a party in the OPSB proceeding, we found a lawyer who was willing to help us at a cost we could afford. He filed a request to allow one of the affected property owners and our members to intervene after the intervention cut-off date so that we might have the rights of a "party". He urged the OPSB to find that there was "good cause" to allow the late intervention. Despite the support we received for this motion from members of the public, this intervention request was rejected at the urging of the wind farm developer. And then the OPSB issued a decision authorizing a certificate without one mention of the safety and other concerns expressed in the hundreds of letters and e-mail messages that were

submitted to the OPSB. With the help of our attorney and our determination to make sure that our concerns were addressed, we filed an application for rehearing contesting the OPSB's decision. In the several months since we filed the application for rehearing, the OPSB has not addressed the legal and other issues we raised in our application but it did grant rehearing for the purpose of giving it more time to consider the issues we raised in our rehearing application. At this point, no decision has been made.

Over the past nine months, our neighbors have joined together to try to protect our beautiful, peaceful and safe community from being destroyed by a wind farm developer. Along the way, we have learned that:

- 1) The consistent and loud noise of wind turbines can cause health issues, including migraine headaches, vertigo, nausea, tinnitus, and sleep deprivation;
- 2) Birds and bats that help us manage bugs and pests are killed by the blades of the turbines;
- 3) Wind farms destroy the value of land and homes that are located near the windfarm;
- 4) Wind farm developers do little, if anything, to proactively disclose the details of their proposed projects to the property owners and local officials most negatively affected by their proposals and engage in leasing practices that can be predatory;
- 5) As we were writing to the OPSB and urging the OPSB to address our concerns, the OPSB staff, the wind farm developer and the Ohio Farm Bureau were, without any notice to us, working on a settlement agreement which ignored our concerns, a settlement agreement that was filed with and eventually adopted by the OPSB;
- 6) The so-called "benefits" provided to schools by wind farm developers do not overcome the destruction of the local tax base and the local community that is caused by wind farms;
- 7) There are safety issues, such as ice throws, turbine fires, and catastrophic turbine failure that can damage property, injure members of our community and injure people driving on roads near the wind farm property;
- 8) Local fire departments including our volunteer fire department do not have the equipment to address a turbine fire including fires caused by a lightning strike and, absent prudent setbacks, dry grain fields can rapidly spread a turbine fire to dwellings and other property;
- 9) The OPSB has approved wind farm proposals that treat the minimum setback requirement contained in Ohio law as though it is a maximum setback requirement and allowed developers to move forward even though most of the proposed turbine locations violate the minimum setback requirement contained in Ohio law.
- 10) The OPSB ignores the fact that the turbine manufacture's minimum safe distance specification may be greater than Ohio's minimum setback requirement.
- 11) The OPSB has not, since 2008, promulgated the rules that are, according to Section 4906.20(B) of the Revised Code supposed to contain reasonable regulations regarding wind turbine "... location, erection, construction,

reconstruction, change, alteration, maintenance, removal, use, or enlargement and including erosion control, aesthetics, recreational land use, wildlife protection, interconnection with power lines and with regional transmission organizations, independent transmission system operators, or similar organizations, ice throw, sound and noise levels, blade shear, shadow flicker, decommissioning, and necessary cooperation for site visits and enforcement investigations"; and,

- 12) The OPSB is, contrary to the plain language in Section 4906.20 (C) of the Revised Code and despite protests from at least one legislator, allowing wind farm developers to evade the minimum setback requirements without the developer securing a waiver of the minimum setback requirement from ALL owners or property adjacent to the wind farm property.

GNU was formed to help educate the community and public officials about the risks of wind turbines and the developers who place profits above local interests. We have done this on our own time and at our own expense. We have held numerous public meetings, bake sales, raffled off home-made pies, held a chili rally, distributed yard signs, put informational brochures in pizza boxes, and held a soup and song event all to educate the community and raise funds to make sure that our concerns are responsibly addressed before a wind farm developer is allowed to invade and exploit our community.

Throughout our learning process, we have heard from experts on the subject of wind turbines and how harmful they can be on a community and how inefficient they are when it comes to producing electricity or helping the environment. As this committee studies the current energy mandates, we wanted you to know about our story and the degree to which real people with concerns about wind farm developments within or near their communities are struggling to get their concerns addressed in a timely and responsible fashion. We are a community, made up of mostly farmers, who have educated ourselves on wind turbines.

Based on the things we have discovered and our experience with the OPSB, we respectfully request that your report recommend that the General Assembly either repeal or indefinitely suspend any further escalation in the energy mandates compliance quantities. Allowing the annual escalation in the mandates, including the renewable mandate, to resume in 2017 before there are adequate substantive and procedural safeguards in place AND it is clear that the safeguards will be properly applied by the OPSB and other agencies will result in other communities around Ohio having to endure what we have been through.

As importantly, our state and Nation should not be subsidizing wind turbine developers and as taxpayers and electricity consumers, we should not be forced to provide financial support to wind farm developers that are invading our communities with little or no regard for the property rights which are supposed to be protected by our state and federal constitutions. .

Attached is our application for rehearing that was filed at the OPSB, along with many articles and letters to the editor that have been printed in our local papers.

We would be happy to host a local meeting of your Committee to let you see firsthand what is being proposed in our community and to let hear from the Ohio citizens who are paying a high price as a result of Ohio's arbitrary portfolio mandates.

We hope this information is useful and we thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Community invited to learn about anti-turbine group's progress

GREENWICH — Members of Greenwich Neighbors United (GNU) are hosting a community event from 5 to 7 p.m. Sunday at South Central School to celebrate the progress members made over the past nine months.

The group will also discuss the future of the proposed wind turbine development for rural Greenwich.

The wind energy development company Windlab has applied to construct a windpark that would cover about 4,650 acres of privately leased land. It would include 25 wind turbines with a total generating capacity of up to 60 megawatts of electricity.

While Windlab has received the go-ahead from the OPSB, a group of opponents within Greenwich Neighbors United has requested a re-hearing as to whether the turbine project should be built.

The Ohio Power Siting Board, a separate entity within the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, has approved the project but is considering granting a rehearing to opponents.

Kevin Ledet, Chairperson of GNU, put together a timeline of events to outline the series of activities in which members of the community have been involved:

June, 2014: Held first meeting of GNU at Greenwich Memorial Park.

GNU held informational meeting at the Public Library in Greenwich.

July, 2014: Dennis Albert, a member of GNU began

August, 2014: Held a meeting at the Rural Coon Hunters, where Phil Harke gave a presentation about the impacts of noise (infra sound) on his son's home by an industrial wind complex in Illinois.

Many member of Greenwich Neighbors United filed letters with the OPSB in opposition to the Greenwich Windpark development.

GNU met with State Sen. Gayle Manning and State Rep. Terry Boose to discuss the wind park and their concerns.

GNU, through OMEGA Crop Co., filed a late motion to intervene. The OPSB denied the motion.

Letters of support for GNU and a request for a second public hearing were filed by Sens. Manning, Seitz, Skindell and Rep. Boose.

The South Central Board of Education passed a resolution to oppose the windpark.

September, 2014: Members of GNU traveled to Van Wert to view wind turbines in operation.

GNU scheduled a public meeting to educate the community about the dangers of the potential windpark. Experts on the impact of wind turbines made presentations, along with Sam Randazzo, the attorney for GNU. Manning, Boose and a number of county commissioners and township trustees participated in the meeting.

An application for rehearing was filed with the OPSB. Hundreds of comments supporting the application for rehearing were filed by GNU members.

Sens. Manning and Seitz and Rep. Boose also filed letters in support.

October, 2014: Members of GNU traveled to Ithaca, Mich. to view the Nordex N117 turbine in operation.

Members of GNU were invited to the Huron County Trustee Association dinner to give a short presentation about the industrial wind turbine projects proposed for Huron County.

See **PROGRESS** / Pg. A-4

Progress

Continued from Pg. A-3

Members of GNU continue to file letters of opposition with the OPSB, and write letters to the editor in local papers.

GNU continues to educate the community through information sheets in pizza boxes.

November, 2014: The community gathered for chili and conversation during a fun event, which featured discussion about the proposed wind turbines and a raffle to raise money for GNU.

January, 2015: GNU sent out weekly releases and updated the website to continue to educate the community about the wind park.

GNU filed comments with the OPSB on their proposed rules (Case No. 12-1981-GE-ORD). These rules deal with the proposed setback requirements for wind turbines.

Members of GNU travel to Lansing, Mich. to attend the Interstate Informed Citizen's Coalition (IICC) Energy Summit.

"We would like to thank all the members of GNU who have worked diligently and who have given of their time and resources in this fight for our community," Ledet said. "There is still much to be done and we encourage all of you to get involved. This is your future also."

For more info, visit the website at <http://greenwichneighborsunited.com>.

No matter what age, citizens in Greenwich concerned about wind turbines

As members of the Greenwich community learn more about the proposed wind turbine park, they are voicing their concerns about its potential impact on this peaceful and tranquil community. The case is pending before the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB), docket #13-990-EL-BGN.

Kay VanScoy, a long-time resident of Greenwich who recently turned 100, said, "I think they will be too close to Greenwich. I've heard from big dairy farms that have turbines close to them that they have lost 20 percent of milk production because of them."

Dean and Carol Sheldon, community members on Greenwich-Milan Townline Road, said, "We were impressed that the OPSB granted OMEGA the application for rehearing after review-

ing the hundreds of comments filed by citizens and state and local officials. It would seem appropriate that an entire review of the Ohio Wind Farm siting criteria should be undertaken before a decision is made affecting submitted plans for the proposed Greenwich Wind Farm development."

Other residents of the community, Heidi Johnson, and Tim Williams, voiced concerns about the impact on Greenwich.

Heidi said, "We have a geothermal heating/cooling system in our home, so we are not against alternative energy.

Eight years ago we became interested in erecting a wind mill on our property. We had a company come and give us an estimate. The cost was going to be \$25,000 and they told us that it would generate about \$35 per month in electric. At

"We believe that putting 900 families within one mile of a wind turbine is not a wise move."

— HEIDI JOHNSON

that point, we realized that wind power was not a good investment in this area because the system would never pay for itself.

"We believe that putting 900 families within one mile of a wind turbine is not a wise move. In Europe and Australia, they are moving

wind turbines further and further away from private dwellings. Since wind turbines have been in these countries much longer than in the U.S., it seems that they have learned that placing them close to homes can cause problems for families."

Tim added, "If this project is pushed through, we as a community will be negatively impacted in many ways. Personally, there will be a negative visual impact which will ultimately lead to a larger and more destructive issue — the reduction of our property values."

In addition, Ginnie Robson, life-long resident of Greenwich said, "In my mind I have been comparing the turbines coming to our area to the time before the indoor smoking ban was made law in Ohio in November of 2006. People's choice to smoke directly

infringed on non-smoker's rights and health. Both sides of the issue were deeply affected but only one side had a choice. Again, the citizens neighboring the huge industrial complexes being created have no choice on a matter that will impact their health as well as their property values."

The young, the old, life-long residents and those new to the area have great concerns about the proposed wind turbine development.

Greenwich Neighbors United is hosting an event from 5 to 7 p.m. Feb. 22 to educate more citizens about the proposed wind park and provide an opportunity to voice their concerns. The event will be take place at South-Central (K-8) School.

Submitted by members of the Greenwich Neighbors United

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Greenwich Neighbors United looking for peaceful resolution

Greenwich Neighbors United has much to be thankful for at the beginning of a new year. Who would have dreamed last year at this time what we would all learn starting in June 2014? We've learned about the duplicity of wind companies who prey on unsuspecting small towns by convincing them they will become wealthy with wind energy. We were granted a rehearing by the Ohio Power Siting Board.

What a cause for celebration that was. We have, hopefully, educated the public to the fact that wind turbines are not "green," which is their main selling point. We now know that they actually would raise electric rates at our local co-op during extreme weather by robbing power off our local grid. We have to continue to educate legislators that this is true. A very positive fact we learned is that some government officials will listen to us if we will take the time to talk to them and that they welcome our input.

Who would have dreamed seven months ago that we would sit down with senators and that they would pay attention to us? The production tax credit ended Jan. 31, and that takes much incentive away from building turbines because wind companies depend on our tax money in order to finance them. Setbacks for turbines are now measured from property lines and not our homes. There is a two-year freeze on the Ohio renewable mandate.

We deserve a moment to celebrate our victories, but not for long, because we are fighting a mighty foe with deep pockets and experienced marketers. We must continue to form attachments to other like-minded grassroots organizations that are fighting the same fight all over Ohio and in neighboring states. As a united front, we will be hard to ignore. In an article in the Columbus Dispatch, dated Dec. 21, Dan Gearino stated that "The (wind) projects are not dead, but I think it will be very challenging to see any of these projects built in the near term."

What will 2015 bring to us? Hopefully a peaceful resolution to wind power in our town.

**Patricia Brown
Greenwich**

GNU continuing fight

Greenwich Neighbors United held a meeting and fundraiser at the South Central K8 building on Sunday, February 22. According to their website, the group is opposed to industrial wind turbines being built in Greenwich and all of Ohio.

Kevin Ledet said with the recent passage of Ohio Senate Bill 310, electric utilities are no longer forced to buy wind power from in-state.

Not one coal-fired plant has ever been closed down due to wind power, he stated. "When is progress not progress?"

Years ago, people were unaware of the health risks associated with asbestos and cigarettes, he pointed out.

"Today we are unaware of all the health risks associated with wind turbines," Ledet cautioned. "This will become an issue."

Ledet said the Federal Production Tax Credit has expired. "So, it will not

affect this project at all."

He expressed concern that there may be another tax credit passed in the future.

It is important people contacting their elected officials and expressing their concerns, Ledet stated.

"Once 10 to 12 people get in touch with their elected officials, it becomes an issue," he pointed out. "By the time we found out what was happening, it was all said and done. There were twelve major (wind) projects rubber-stamped within minutes."

Once people in Greenwich found out what was happening, they started contacting their legislators, he added. State Senator Gayle Manning and Ohio House Representative Terry Boose are with onboard and he encouraged residents to express appreciation for their support.

Ledet said a rehearing of the proposed Greenwich wind park already has been granted. The Ohio Power Siting Board could take

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Like the Trojan horse, bad things can happen

Remember the story about the Trojan horse? The Trojans thought the horse was on their doorstep as a sign of peace and good will, until they opened the door.

I want to compare the free and clean industrial wind energy to that same scenario and refer you to articles on our website www.greenwich-neighborsunited.com.

What the wind developers tell us:

1. Wind power is good for the community, bringing jobs and income for the school system. They don't tell you the jobs are temporary, lasting as long as the construction does. The money returned to the community, (taxes for the schools and lease payments) is only a small proportion of the money that is removed (tax abatements, production tax credits and other tax incentives).

2. Bringing these monsters into a community actually divides friends and neighbors forever. None of these are a good deal or promote good will?

What they won't tell you:

1. That property values go down. (See article "Wind Industry Big Lies" by British journalist James Delingpole).

2. The killing of birds and bats leads to the increase use of pesticides in order to control the increase of harmful insects. And aerial spraying may no longer be feasible because of flight and application risks.

3. By improper placement near homes, some of your neighbors will most likely suffer from the effects of infra sound similar to that at the Shirley Wind project in Wisconsin, which has been declared a health hazard by the Brown County Board of Health.

4. American Energy Association reports it is guaranteed that your electricity rate will go up just like in all areas where wind energy has been accepted. See post entitled "Electricity Prices Soaring in Top Wind Power States."

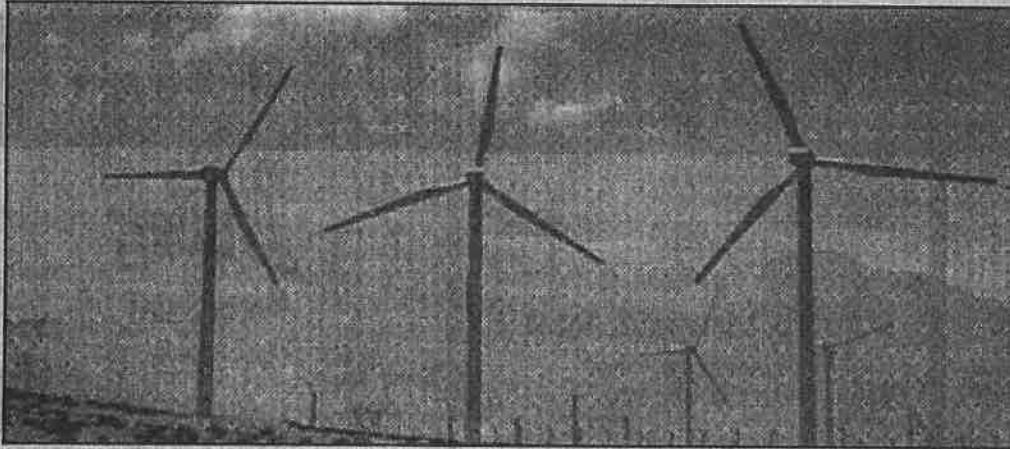
5. There is tremendous amount of toxic waste caused by extracting the rare earth elements used in building the magnets which are used in each and every turbine. (See the article on the devastation of China by Simon Parry).

Oh, the hidden surprises within the Trojan horse! Don't be fooled, before you open the door to wind energy's claims, get all of the facts!

**Marcia Ledet
Greenwich**

Lots is happening with wind power – Change is in the air!

Sponsored by Greenwich Neighbors United!



**Come see and hear what's it all about at
South Central K-8 Building
February 22, 2015**

Serving delicious hot **SOUP** from 5:00 – 7:00
SAM Randazzo, attorney for GNU, will be there to bring
us the latest updates and answer questions...
& our special friend, Matt Missey will finish us up on a high
note with **SONG!**

GNU to hold fundraiser

Greenwich Neighbors United (GNU) will host an event for the community to discuss the potential Greenwich Windpark development.

The proposal is pending before the Ohio Power Siting Board (Case #13-99-EL-BGN). The event, "Soups, Songs, and Sam" is scheduled for February 22 from 5 to 7 p.m. at South Central K-8 school.

Matt Missey, local celebrity and wood carver, will be per-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Just make sure green is green

We don't know what goes on behind closed doors until we have the courage to take a peek. Let's take a peek behind wind energy. They say it's clean, green and free, really? Let's ask the people of Baotuo, China. Industrial wind turbines (IWT) don't magically appear out of thin air, it takes quite a lot of material to construct and a lot of fuel to transport and erect an IWT.

One high capacity IWT contains more than two tons of magnets. These magnets are made from rare earth elements. Ninety percent of these rare earth elements are found in China, and for Baotuo, China this spell disaster for the people and for the environment. (Article by Simon Parry, In China, the true cost of Britain's clean, green wind power experiment: Pollution on a disastrous scale.).

Processing these rare earth elements is a dirty business, the mining of one ton of rare earth produces one ton of radioactive waste.

"All forms of energy production have some environmental impact. However, it is disingenuous for wind lobbyists to hide the impacts of their industry while high lighting the impacts of others. From illegal bird deaths to radioactive waste, wind energy poses serious environmental risks that the wind lobby would prefer you never know about. This makes it easier for them when arguing for more subsidies, tax credits, mandates and government support." from, big wind, dirty little secrets, (Institute for Energy Research.org. Oct 23, 2013).

The people of Baotuo, China are exposed to this environmental disaster every day. Is that clean? Is that green? Is that free? I ask you, what is this frenzy of wind turbines all about? For those who believe that wind energy is the best option for a green environment, are you really doing your homework? It takes time to investigate all this, but we make time for what is important to us, don't we?

Is our environment really important or is it just too easy to agree with what is popular — green is in. Just make sure green is green.

Visit [www.
greenwichneighborsunited.com](http://www.greenwichneighborsunited.com).

**Marcia Ledet
Greenwich**

'Soups, Songs and Sam'

Greenwich Neighbors United hosting Feb. 22 event

GREENWICH

Greenwich Neighbors United is hosting an event for the community to discuss the potential Greenwich Windpark development. The proposal is pending before the Ohio Power Siting Board, (Case #13-99-EL-BGN). The event, "Soups,

Songs, and Sam" is scheduled for 5 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22 at South-Central (K-8) School.

GNU chairman Kevin Ledet said "some members of the community are very engaged in the issue of the possibility of wind turbines being erected in Greenwich

and they want to know what they can do to stop them. There are other members of the community who are just learning about the wind turbines and are thirsty for more information. So, we decided to host a casual event, with some entertainment and an opportunity for

our attorney, Sam Randazzo, to bring the community up-to-date on the case and other developments about wind energy in Ohio."

Matt Missey, local celebrity and wood carver, will perform that night and is donating one of his original wood sculptures to be raffled off.



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Group opposed to south Huron County wind farm announces meeting

Still no decision from Ohio Power Siting Board on rehearing request

TOM JACKSON GREENWICH TWP

FEB 4, 2015

A group opposing a wind farm project in southern Huron County has scheduled a public meeting on Feb. 22 to discuss updates to the situation.

Greenwich Neighbors United is hosting the event, as the developers of the project and opponents of it continue to await further action from the Ohio Power Siting Board.

6011 Greenwich Windpark LLC, a subsidiary of Windlab Developments USA, plans to build



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Top Comments

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up to 25 wind turbines in Greenwich Township, covering 4,650 acres of land leased from landowners, east of Greenwich and just north of Richland County. The planned turbines would be up to 490.5 feet tall, with rotor diameters of 383 feet.

After holding hearings and taking testimony, the Ohio Power Siting Board issued an order on August 25 last year, allowing the project to be built.

Omega Crop Co. then filed a request for a rehearing on the matter.

The board still has not taken any action on the request, said Matt Butler, a spokesman for the board.

"It's still pending. We have a meeting scheduled for March 9, but I have not seen an agenda. That would certainly be the earliest we would see anything," Butler said.

6011 Greenwich Windpark LLC also has inquired about the status of the rehearing request, Butler said.

Monica Jensen, a spokeswoman for the company, said last year that the company wanted to begin construction at the end of 2015 and have an operational wind farm by 2016. She could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

In its filing, Omega argues that plans for 16 of the 26 planned wind turbines show that the setback, the distance from neighboring property lines, is less than the law requires.

Kevin Ledet, chairman of Greenwich Neighbors United, said everyone is welcome to attend the meeting and learn more about the project.



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"So, we decided to host a casual event, with some entertainment and an opportunity for our attorney, Sam Randazzo, to bring the community up-to-date on the case and other developments about wind energy in Ohio," he said.

Want to Go?

WHAT: Community meeting on Greenwich wind farm project, held by opponents

WHEN: 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Feb. 22.

WHERE: South Central School, K-8, 3291 Greenwich Angling Rd., Greenwich.

Comments

Really are you ...

WED, 02/04/2015 - 10:29PM

70.5 feet taller than Top Thrill Dragster. Not 1 but 25 of them.

Letter to the Editor

Good News for GNU in the new year

To the Editor:

Greenwich Neighbors United have much to be thankful for at the beginning of a new year.

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We've learned about the duplicity of wind companies who prey on unsuspecting small towns by convincing them they will become wealthy with wind energy. We were granted a rehearing by the Ohio Power Siting Board. What a cause for celebration that was!

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weather by robbing power off our local grid. We have to continue to educate legislator that this is true.

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The production tax credit ended Jan. 31 and that takes much incentive away from building turbines because wind companies depend on our tax money in order to finance them. Setbacks for turbines are now measured from property lines and not our homes. There is now a two year freeze on the Ohio renewable mandate.

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We must continue to form attachments to other like minded grass root organizations that are fighting the same fight all over Ohio and in neighboring states. As a united front we will be hard to ignore.

In an article in the Columbus Dispatch, dated Dec. 21, Dan Gearino stated that "The (wind) projects are not dead, but I think it will be very challenging to see any of these projects built in the near term."

What will 2015 bring to us? Hopefully, a peaceful resolution to wind power in our town.

Patricia Brown
Greenwich

Greenwich Enterprise-Review

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15¢

Tuesday
December 2, 2014

Edition of the Shopper's Helper
Shelby Daily Globe Inc.

Full Coverage for Greenwich, North Fairfield and Shiloh

Greenwich Neighbors United continues fight

Greenwich Neighbors United, a group of property owners opposing the Greenwich Windpark, raised \$5,800 at a recent fundraiser to help support the efforts of the group. In addition, the group helped organize hundreds of letters from multiple counties to send letters to Governor Kasich on the matter of industrial wind development in their communities.

Kevin Ledet, Chairperson of Greenwich Neighbors United, said over 850 Ohio residents who are threatened with the prospect of industrial wind development in their communities sent a letter to Governor Kasich. The letter

outlined the repeated and continuing failures of the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) to protect them from loss of their property rights and respect adjacent property owners' right to protect and enjoy their property. Signers of this letter come from multiple counties including Champaign, Logan, Hardin, Mercer, Crawford, Richland, Seneca, Greene, Huron, Van Wert, Auglaize and other counties.

Ledet said that he and others in the community signed the letter as a way to bring these issues to the attention of the Governor and legislative leadership. The letter requests

a halt to the OPSB's consideration of any active wind power siting case until lawful rules are established that faithfully implement the laws passed by the General Assembly.

"Citizens of Ohio are coming together to join forces and educate one another about the harmful impact the industrial wind turbines have on communities," Ledet stated. "In our letter, we have asserted that the OPSB has not adopted rules that adequately and faithfully implement the requirements established by Ohio's General Assembly, and has acted in ways that confuse citizens interested in exercising and protecting their

rights".

The Greenwich Windpark's proposal is still pending before the OPSB due to an extension by the siting board to further review evidence and statements.

Ledet added many of the members of Greenwich Neighbors United are also members of the Ohio Farm Bureau and have asked the Farm Bureau to revisit its practice of supporting industrial wind farm developers.

In their continued efforts to educate members of the community and draw attention to the lack of adoption of rules implementing the requirements established by Ohio

law, the Greenwich Neighbors United raised \$5,800 at its fundraising event held recently. "Most importantly, our community came together, had fun and helped educate one another about the wind turbine project proposed for Greenwich Township. We cannot give up our fight to stop these turbines from being erected in our peaceful and tranquil community. And, we will continue to reach out to all community members to provide information and support one another in this ongoing battle."

The Greenwich Windpark pending before the OPSB is case #13-990-EL-BGN.

LOCAL

Greenwich Neighbors United keep conversation alive at recent chili rally

GREENWICH

Greenwich Neighbors United hosted what they're calling "a very successful" community event recently at South Central K-8 School.

The group sponsored the event to help educate members of the community about the proposed wind turbine project. In addition to the chili supper, there was a raffle, auction and entertainment. The event brought in more than \$5,800.

Chairperson Kevin Ledet said, "We are so thankful to the many merchants who contributed merchandise and our neighbors who attended the event and bid on these items. We raffled off 48 baskets and auctioned some bigger items, including a beautiful handmade quilt."

Highlights included a bidding war over Bonnie Rhine's blueberry pie, which finally sold for \$50 and the auctioning off of a container of James Hale's famous chili, leftover from the event.

"Most importantly, our community came together, had fun and helped educate one another about the wind turbine project proposed for Greenwich Township. We cannot give up our fight to stop these turbines from being erected in our peaceful and tranquil community. And, we will continue to reach out to all community members to provide informa-



SUBMITTED

Denise Robinson and Judy Creveling are shown at the Greenwich Neighbors United chili rally.

tion and support one another in this on-going battle."

The pending proposal is

before the Ohio Power Siting Board, case #13-990-EL-BGN.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Greenwich group seeking donations

My husband and I are just two of the Greenwich Neighbors United group working toward stopping the building of wind turbines. There is a lot of work going on behind the scenes and although they have been working daily on this project there is a lot yet to do. We have a long road ahead of us in fighting to keep the wind turbines from coming into our small piece of our world.

As we learn what should have been done, when it should have been done and how should it be done, we are reaching out to surrounding township boards teaching them what we have learned.

All of this costs a lot of money. I don't see how our small group can work fast and hard enough to keep up with the bills.

Turbines are not green. They aren't and can never be free. They will be a constant drain on the tax payers since they are subsidized by our government, your tax dollars. There is nothing to be gained by any one of us. Only the companies who are building these huge monsters will gain by getting their pockets lined with "green" money.

Please, please get informed and learn all you can. This is a very serious situation we find ourselves in. Our children and grandchildren will have to deal with this nightmare as well.

I am asking all of you to search your hearts and pockets to give a donation, large or small. It all adds up. Donations can be made at the Citizens Bank in Greenwich Neighbors United account or to any one of our group.

If anyone of you would like to learn about the turbines, any one of us will be more than happy to tell you. The more we learn the more we dislike them. We have had people come to our meetings from out of state telling how bad they are and what can go wrong living so close to them. Please help us in this fight.

**Les and Loretta Somsak
Greenwich**

Greenwich Community invited to gathering featuring chili, conversation

Wind turbine
project to be topic
of discussion

GREENWICH — The Greenwich Neighbors United, a group opposing a wind turbine project in rural Greenwich, are inviting all members of the community and the surrounding areas to get together for chili and conversation at 5 p.m. Friday at South Central K-8 school.

"There are still a lot of unanswered questions and concerns about the proposed wind project and we want to help answer some of those questions for members of the community. We are hosting a fundraiser/community event so neighbors can get together and talk about the status of the wind turbines in a casual and fun setting. We hope everyone in the community takes part in this event, even those members who are neutral or in support of the wind turbine project," said Kevin Ledet, chairman of Greenwich Neighbors United.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Hot air' farms should be stopped

As John Adams so eloquently said, "The moment the idea is admitted into society that property is not as sacred as the laws of God and that there is not a force of law and public justice to protect it, anarchy and tyranny commence." (John Adams, *A Defense of the American Constitution*, 1787).

Most of the folks who live in and around Greenwich, Ohio were born there or have moved there because of the isolation and gentle pace of life it offers. Trucks roll through on U.S. 224 and trains rumble with regularity. The disturbance is brief and soon passes.

A group of businessmen armed with "federal" money have decided to build a large wind farm. Never mind that the constant drone and vibrations of these huge monstrosities will affect every living creature within miles. According to whatever study is cited, the damage is either minimal or catastrophic. Even using the proponents' own slanted data, there is some damage.

"Just as easy to get accustomed to as the passing truck or locomotive."

Chinese water torture is a relentless drop of water onto the forehead every few seconds eventually resulting in madness — not an occasional drop, but steady drops for hours. Sound and vibration are no different than drops of water. No property owner should be subjected to any such torture without his consent. No sane person would claim that a truck backfire at 5 a.m. kept them awake all night. Nor would they claim that a backfire every minute for days, weeks, months or years would be without devastating consequence.

Wind farms are not economically feasible, they are experimental at best. They are built because the money provided by our government enables a large profit to be made on their construction. They will become ghosts, standing quietly and still as monuments to wishful thinking, disregard for simple rules of physics and greed. Their only legacy will be the destruction of farms, families and freedoms.

The assault on private property, and individual liberty continues.

I urge all concerned, please reconsider this folly.

**Victor Mooney
Milan**

Ohio Power Siting Board to seek extension on appeal

By Kyle Bailey

Members of Greenwich Neighbors United, opposing the Greenwich Windpark project, can let out a momentary sigh of relief.

On Wednesday, Oct. 22 the Ohio Power Siting Board made the decision to seek an extension regarding the application sent in by Omega Crop Co., LLC. In a statement released by the OPSB it states the Board has decided to seek an extension to "afford the Board additional time to consider the issues raised by Omega."

The Board's decision to seek an extension regarding Omega's application for rehearing came a day before the official 30 day deadline

was scheduled for Oct. 23. According to a OPSB spokesperson Matt Butler, the Board had three different options when making a decision on the ruling: deny the request for rehearing, accept the request for rehearing, or seek a delay for the rehearing beyond the original designated time frame.

GNU Chairperson Kevin Ledet said the Board's decision is good news for the time being, but noted the final outcome could still result in unwanted news for GNU supporters. "Hopefully the Board will now take the time to review and really consider some of the problems presented by the people," he said.

Butler said essentially the

Board can go one of three routes when making a decision after granting a rehearing: agree completely with all the concerns raised by Omega in its application, agree partially with the concerns, or disagree with all the concerns.

Omega, an adjacent property to the wind farm project owned by Gerald and Connie Oney, filed an application with the OPSB on Sept. 23 to request a rehearing due to the majority of the community missing the May 6, 2014 public meeting held at South Central High School. Omega initially filed for a motion to intervene with the wind farm project on Aug. 21 with a memorandum of support

Continued on page 6

WindLab

Continued from page 1

given to the Board.

At a meeting held in Columbus on Aug. 25, the Board refused Omega's request and granted a certificate of approval to Greenwich Windpark to continue with the next phase of the wind farm project.

6011 Greenwich Windpark, LLC, is a subsidiary of Windlab Development USA, located in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Windlab has proposed a plan to erect 25 turbines in Greenwich Township, spanning 4,650 acres of land leased from 26 participating landowners. The turbines are expected to stand at approximately 490.5 ft. tall with a rotor diameter around 383 ft. The wind farm will be capable of generating up to 60 megawatts of electricity, each individual turbine generating a capacity of 2.4 MW.

In the application filed by Omega, under the section, errors necessitating rehearing, it states the OPSB granted an "unreasonable and unlawful" order to construct the wind farm when there is "uncontested evidence" which shows Windlab violated the set back agreement and did not execute waivers with all affected adjacent landowners.

The staff report of investigation filed on Apr. 18 to OPSB, acknowledged 16 of the 25 proposed wind turbine locations imposed on minimum setback requirements set forth by the Ohio General Assembly. The staff report also stated Windlab had executed waivers of the minimum property line setback with each of the 16 affected landowners.

In recent months, after awareness and support from local citizens began to spread throughout the community, GNU managed to gain the support of local officials Senator Gayle Manning R-Ridgeville and State Representative Terry Boose R-Norwalk as well as Senator Bill Seitz R-Cincinnati. Each state official wrote a separate

In his letter to the Board, Manning wrote "if granted, a rehearing will ensure Omega and its interests as a component of Huron County's economy will be considered full, and in accordance with Ohio Revised Code," while Boose wrote "I respectfully request that Omega's appeal receive a favorable consideration to allow additional discussion to take place on this important issue."

Seitz, a chairperson on the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, wrote a letter to Chairman Tom Johnson of PUCO, who resides on the OPSB, expressing his disdain for the certificate granted to Windlab to continue with the proposed project after failing to execute waivers for adjacent property owners. "62% of the proposed 25 turbines will violate the minimum setback requirements that apply under prior law (and more aggressively violate the minimum setback requirements that are contained in current law). The setback violations appear to be occurring in circumstances where many owners of property adjacent to the wind farm property have not consented to the minimum setback violations and are objecting to the proposed wind park," he said.

Ledet said he appreciated the assistance of local officials in helping the community by submitting letters of support. He reiterated if the OPSB decides to deny the request submitted by Omega, following the rehearing process, and continue to ignore the issues raised by local citizens then the next course of action will most likely be to take the case before the Ohio Supreme Court.

"The court has always affirmed the Board's decision in these cases," emphasized Butler.

The OPSB does not have a designated date in which a new decision must be made addressing issues raised in the rehearing application said Butler. The Board will continue to review and discuss the application submitted by

for Monday, Oct. 27, but according to Butler he is unaware if the Greenwich Windpark case will be included in the agenda.

Monica Jensen, Vice President of North America at Windlab Development, LLC, said the company has to continue to go through the process in regards to the Board's decision to seek an extension. Jensen noted she met with Ledet last week to discuss the process taking place. She said she thought the meeting went amicably. "I think Kevin learned a little bit and he certainly told me how the community felt and where they stand," she said.

According to Ledet, GNU will continue updating the community about the rehearing process as well as educating people in the village about the harmful effects of wind turbines. "The more people know about these turbines, the less they like them," he said. "We need to be persistent in helping other people understand why this wind farm can't sensibly be crammed into the area the wind farm has targeted for development."

Greenwich wind park

Local lawmakers support reconsideration of project

By AARON KRAUSE

Reflector Staff Writer
akrause@norwalkreflector.com

Two lawmakers representing the area have written letters supporting a Greenwich farming business' request for a state board to reconsider its approval of the building of wind turbines in rural Greenwich.

State Rep. Terry Boose (R-Norwalk Township) and State Sen. Gayle Manning (R-13th district) are asking The Ohio Power Siting

Board to grant a rehearing regarding the matter.

The Ohio Power Siting Board, a separate entity within the public Utilities Commission of Ohio, has approved the wind turbine project.

Omega Crop Co. LLC had met the deadline to request a rehearing. The deadline for a party to file such a request was Sept. 24, and Omega owners Gerald and Connie Oney filed the request the previous day.

See **PROJECT** / Pg. A-3

This illustration shows how the Greenwich Windpark project will look on Alpha Road, east of Ohio 113.



Project

Continued from Pg. A-1

The board has 30 days from the date of the Oneys' filing to make one of three decisions: It can reconsider its approval of the project, deny Omega's reconsideration request or the board can expand the amount of time it takes to consider its options.

"Due to a number of concerns listed in their appeal, I am hopeful that the Power Siting Board will allow for a rehearing to ensure that these issues are addressed," Boose wrote.

Opponents, many of whom make up a group calling themselves "Greenwich Neighbors United," have expressed setback requirements, as well as those about noise, impact on wildlife and what they claim are adverse health affects.

Specifically, the group claims the wind turbines proposed by Greenwich Windpark are too close to places where people live, work and recreate.

Kevin Ledet, chairperson of Greenwich Neighbors United, sent the *Reflector* a picture to illustrate "what Greenwich will look like if his development moves forward," he said.

The picture is published on Page A-1.

"These pictures help show why the community and local officials are upset about the Ohio Power Siting Board's decision to grant a certificate to Greenwich Windpark developers over the objections of hundreds of community members,"

Ledet said. "That's why we've filed an application for rehearing and urge our neighbors to file comments

with the OPSB in opposition to the Windpark (Case #13-990-EL-BGN).

"In addition, we are also asking members of the community who are members of the Ohio Farm Bureau and Huron County Farm Bureau to let the OPSB know that they do not speak for them. Many people in the community are upset with the Farm Bureau for making comments in this case that are in opposition to their members. They should be helping us keep our farming community vibrant and beautiful, not trying to destroy it," Ledet added.

The letters from Boose and Manning are published on Page A-2 in today's *Reflector*.

"If granted, a rehearing will ensure Omega and its interests as a component of Huron County's economy will be considered fully and in accordance with Ohio Revised Code," Manning wrote. "With that, I respectfully ask for the Ohio Power Siting Board's favorable consideration of Omega Crop Co.'s application for rehearing."

Greenwich Windpark, LLC proposes to construct a wind farm that would generate up to 60 megawatts (MW) of electricity. The project would be located across about 4,600 acres and consist of up to 25 turbines, each with a name-plate generating capacity of 2.4 MW.

Greenwich Windpark LLC, in its response to Omega's request, wrote, in part, "the potential impact of the project to neighboring properties and agricultural property is required by law to be considered by the Board as part of the proceeding and were indeed adequately considered in the proceeding."

LETTERS

Rep. Boose requests rehearing involving G'wich Windpark

Dear Executive Director Donlon and Members of the Ohio Power Siting Board,

I write to you in support of the application for a rehearing before the Ohio Power Siting Board for the Greenwich Windpark Project, case number 13-990-EL-BGN. Omega Crop Co. LLC, the party pursuing the appeal, is a farming business located adjacent to the proposed project site.

Due to a number of concerns listed in their appeal, I am hopeful that the Power Siting Board will allow for a rehearing to ensure that these issues are addressed.

There has been an active and ongoing dialogue throughout the Greenwich community regarding this project and should an additional hearing be granted, this would allow for additional productive discussion. I respectfully request that Omega's appeal receive a favorable consideration to allow additional discussion to take place on this important issue.

Please feel free to be in contact with my office should you have any questions.

Respectfully yours,

Terry Boose
State Representative
57th House District

Sen. Manning requests rehearing involving G'wich Windpark

Dear Executive Director Donlon and Members of the Ohio Power Siting Board,

I write to express my support for the application of rehearing and memorandum in of Omega Crop Co., LLC, filed as an owner of property adjacent to the wind farm property in Greenwich, Ohio (Case No. 13-990-EL-BGN).

Omega is a small farming business in my district. From my understanding, the windpark developer, 6011 Greenwich Windpark, LLC ('Greenwich'), has acknowledged Omega as an adjacent property owner. The owners of Omega, in addition to many other adjacent property owners have expressed opposition to the wind farm and request a rehearing following their initial request of a motion to intervene and an additional public hearing.

If granted, a rehearing will ensure Omega and its interests as a component of Huron County's economy will be considered fully and in accordance with Ohio Revised Code.

With that, I respectfully ask for the Ohio Power Siting Board's favorable consideration of Omega Crop Co.'s application for rehearing. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if I can be of any assistance in this request.

Sincerely,

Gayle L. Manning
State Senator
13th Ohio Senate District

Proposed setback just not enough

KEVIN
LEDET

Greenwich Neighbors United deserve more than the absolute minimum of protection from wind farm developers.

Windlab claims that the question being debated here is about which absolute minimum setback requirement should apply to the industrial wind facility project proposed for Greenwich.



LEDET

This line of questioning is designed to distract attention away from the real debate and the real concerns that have been repeatedly expressed to the Ohio Power Siting Board by many, many local citizens who are bewildered by the board's unwillingness to heed their warnings.

There are different minimum setback requirements in the law that is in place today and the version of the law that Windlab says applies to its proposed wind farm. Ohio's General Assembly recently increased the minimum setbacks (over the objections of wind farm developers like Windlab) because the lesser minimum setback in prior law was not adequate to protect the rights of property owners or in the public interest.

In both cases the absolute minimum setback requirement is 1,125 feet, measured either from a habitable residential structure or the property line to the wind turbine. This is the absolute minimum setback that the OPSB must apply to comply with the law in the case of wind farms.

It is not the reasonable and prudent setback distance the board should and must apply to protect people, property and the public interest based on the facts and circumstances in particular cases. For example, in the turbine manufacturer's safety manual, which Windlab submitted to the OPSB, it specifically states that in case of fire no one is permitted within 500 meters or 1,640 feet of the wind turbine.

Cramming 25 wind turbines onto property that is so near to residential structures, working farms and recreational areas and despite all the local citizens' efforts to warn the board, the board elected to: (1) start with the absolute minimum setback and, (2) permit Windlab to move forward based on setbacks that are less than the absolute minimum.

Neither the old nor the new version of an absolute minimum setback is adequate to protect the health, safety and welfare of the local community or the people who live and work in the area.

Kevin Ledet, of Greenwich, is a member of the Greenwich Neighbors United.

Wind turbines would disrupt our lives

I am writing this letter with some concerns about the wind turbines. My husband and I made a trip to western Ohio, namely Van Wert and Paulding. We traveled down highway 127 and it

was not long before we saw a lot of wind turbines. We turned down a country road and pulled off to the side. We could hear the clicking of the blades turning, not too loud. We then moved to a different spot and the turbines were really close to factories and homes.

These were a little lower to the ground than what is coming to Greenwich Township.

We then went to another site where the turbines were really close to a home, my husband went to talk to them but no one was home, so he stood on the back porch and this place the wind turbine was noisy, it was making a whooshing sound and also the blades were clicking.

It would be annoying to listen to that every day. One could not enjoy the back porch. My concern is my family will not be able to enjoy our backyard and cookouts with these coming to the township so close to us. My husband counted 117 just from what he could see from the back of the truck. I also have concerns about sleeping with the windows open at night.

Diane Hale
Greenwich

Windlab clarifies misconceptions of setback regulations

By Kyle Bailey

Monica Jensen, vice president North America at Windlabs Development, LLC, spoke on behalf of the Greenwich Windpark project, to clarify misconceptions in regards to failed setback accusations from the GNU group.

GNU has accused Windlab of failing to meet minimum setback requirements for 16 of 25 turbines in Greenwich. The group has also claimed that Windlab has not obtained waivers from property owners to place turbines in designated areas.

Jenson said Windlab currently has two property owners to obtain waivers from, so horizontal directional drilling (HDD) underground can be performed to connect two turbines.

"We have not executed waivers and gotten access to continue yet," she said. "If we are unable to execute waivers then we will have to recite or drop the turbines from this area. Both options have been approved by the OPSB."

In regards to GNU's claim that Windlab has failed to meet setback requirements for 16 of 25 turbines, Jenson explained, Windlab has been grandfathered in for the Windpark project in Greenwich.

"The OPSB approved waivers are acquired fields."

"We try not to impact farming practices and have access roads inter-vene with farmers

to allow for turbines to move out of farmer fields and closer to fence lines," Jenson said.

"We try not to impact farming practices and have access roads inter-vene with farmers

to allow for turbines to move out of farmer fields and closer to fence lines," Jenson said.

about confirming blood drive information, donating blood or making an appointment, phone 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit the Red Cross website at redcross-blood.org.

If you are interested in donating platelets, call 1-800-356-3339.

Wind turbine project

Lawyer tells opposers: 'Don't get frustrated

Greenwich Township residents continue fight

By AARON KRAUSE

Reflector Staff Writer
akrause@norwalkreflector.com

A state board may have approved a wind turbine project in Greenwich Township, but a group of residents opposed to the idea aren't finished fighting.

Omega Crop Company owners Gerald and Connie Oney have filed a rehearing request with the Ohio Power Siting Board. The board is a separate entity within the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and has the final say as to whether the park is built.

The deadline to file such a request was Wednesday and the Oneys filed on Tuesday.

Monica Jensen, vice president of development for Windlab, the project's developer, has 10 days from the reconsideration request filing to for-

mally object to a rehearing.

The board can make one of three decisions within 30 days of Omega's filing: It can reconsider its approval of the project, deny Omega's reconsideration request or it can expand the amount of time it takes to consider its options.

Omega's attorney, Sam Randazzo, said if the Ohio Power Siting Board denies Omega's request, the group has the option of appealing to the Ohio Supreme Court. That process could take a year to a 18 months, Randazzo said.

"Don't get frustrated," the attorney encouraged more than 100 people who recently attended an informational meeting at South Central Local Schools.

See FIGHT / Pg. A-4

Fight

Continued from Pg. A-1

Greenwich Neighbors United, the group of residents opposed to the wind turbines, organized the meeting. During the event, they heard presentations from independent consultant Tom Stacy, who calls himself an "Ohioan for Affordable Electricity" and works as an independent consultant "specializing in helping people understand the difference between conventional power sources and intermittent weather-based electricity sources."

The group also heard from Kevon Martis, former vice-chairman of the Riga Township (Michigan) Planning Commission and former vice-chairman of the Lenawee County Rural Land Use Committee. He's also director of the Interstate Informed Citizens Coalition (ICCC). ICCC bills itself as "a non-profit corporation dedicated to raising public awareness of the potential impacts from the construction of industrial wind turbines in our region."

Members of the Ohio Power Siting Board were invited to the presentation. However, when Greenwich area resident Kevin Leder, who is opposed to the wind turbines, asked if any board members were present, no hands shot up.

Jensen said she also was invited and tried to adjust her schedule so she could attend the presentations. But she said she was "working on another project" and was therefore unable to attend.

Windlab has applied to construct a windpark that would cover about 4,650 acres of privately leased land. It would include 25 wind turbines with a total generating capacity of up to 60 megawatts of electricity.

Opponents have raised concerns spanning from health effects of wind turbines to wildlife and noise concerns.

"Every major wind development in Michigan has produced widespread complaints, legal and political action regarding wind turbine noise," Martis told the crowd. He added 73 people living inside a wind energy plant's 114-turbine cluster signed petitions asking for relief.

Jensen has said those who would live in the vicinity of the turbine are already exposed to noise from trains passing by.

And Stacy said he's not against turbines.

"I'm for affordable electricity," he said. "It happens that windmills today don't compete on their own merit."

Jensen has said no matter how much material from credible sources she provides to people opposed to turbines, it's never good enough.

Wind power has its positives, according to the EPA's website.

"Wind energy can provide residents and businesses with the electricity they need without the harmful emissions associated with conventional electricity generation sources," it reads. "Wind is also the fastest growing energy source in the world, which helps create jobs and spur economic growth."

At the same time, wind turbines can impact wildlife such as birds and bats, the EPA website states.

Residents also have raised concerns about what they feel are negative health effects of wind turbines.

But Duncan Estep, a Lorain County Community College (LCCC) associate professor who teaches engineering and alternative energy, said there's no reliable research to suggest that wind turbines can harm people's health.

Greenwich residents request wind farm rehearing

By COURTNEY DAY
T-G Staff Writer

GREENWICH — It may not be too late to stop development of the Greenwich wind park, attorney Sam Randazzo told about 75 township residents and visitors at a Greenwich Neighbors United informational meeting Tuesday.

Randazzo, who represents the group opposing the proposed Windlab wind farm, filed an application with the Ohio Power Siting

Board on Tuesday for a rehearing and memorandum in support of the owner of a property adjacent to the wind farm property.

While Randazzo said it will be an uphill legal battle as township residents missed the deadline to object to the project, he said the group has a case because more than 60 percent of the wind turbines in the project are closer to residential structures than requirements indicate they should be.

As long as the case is open, Randazzo said, it is unlikely the developers will be able to proceed with the project. Eventually, he hopes, the project may be halted for financial if not legal reasons.

Meanwhile, he said, residents can make an impact by expressing concerns to the county engineer and township trustees, who will interact with the wind park developers as the project progresses.

In addition to the legal update,

attendees of Tuesday's meeting heard from speakers on a variety of concerns related to the park.

Mark Shieldcastle from the nonprofit Black Swamp Bird Observatory urged the group to consider partnering with existing wildlife networks who are concerned about the effects of wind farms on migratory birds and the bat population.

Having worked for the state as the head of wetland wildlife,

he said, he has encountered the wind power industry in the past. He described the industry as confusing and frustrating and said it relies on "junk science" obtained through flawed studies, as well as loopholes and deceptive strategies to work around the laws.

He recommended the group obtain a copy of the pre-construction risk assessment that will be done for the project and "tear

Turn to **WIND**, Page A8

Greenwich residents hear from wind farm opponents

WIND

Continued from Page A1

apart" its weaknesses, as well as to use the Migratory Bird Act and Endangered Species Act to their advantage.

Another speaker, Tom Stacy of Logan County, said he began researching wind power when the wind industry attempted to build a facility in his county.

He said wind energy is

high in total cost as it relies on government subsidies and earns only a third of its revenue. Stacy also argued wind power is low in value as it fails to replace conventional power plants and does not provide much power during high-demand summer months. Thirdly, Stacy said, wind power drives electricity rates higher as power plants must raise rates to make a reasonable profit while being forced to

operate less. Stacy said residents should not only vote but also let political candidates and elected officials know they expect a better energy policy.

A third speaker, Kevon Martis, is director of Interstate Informed Citizens Coalition and has helped develop policies for wind facility development in Michigan.

"The most reliable thing about wind energy is the

division it creates in those communities," he said, adding that every major wind development in Michigan has produced complaints, legal action and political action regarding wind turbine noise.

Martis said it is unlikely Windlab will be able to keep the noise levels under 40 decibels and he shared stories of residents near wind turbines who are forced to sleep in their basements or even rent an apartment to sleep in when the wind blows a certain direction.

At 40 to 55 decibels, health effects start to be seen, he said.

Martis also raised concerns about the fast rate at which these projects change hands. The entity landowners are negotiating with now is unlikely to be the same one they will deal with in 20 years when the wind turbine bases are decommissioned and replaced.

"There's a lot of information, a lot of stuff we didn't know about and a lot to think about," Greenwich Neighbors United chairperson Kevin Ledet said at the end of the evening.

Raising money to fight wind turbines

Greenwich Neighbors United had a table at Greenwich farmers market Saturday. The group sold baked goods, plants, quilts and homemade cards to raise money for its fight to prevent turbine-driven wind machines on the Greenwich landscape. Among the group's many concerns are lowered property values and various health issues.



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nts August 21, 2014

Illinois Man Shares Family Experience With Wind Turbines

By Lynne Phillips
News Editor

More than 100 area residents gathered at Rural Coonhunters, Inc., near Greenwich for a presentation about the detrimental effect of wind turbines.

Global wind energy development company Windlabs has applied to construct a windpark that would cover 4,650 acres of privately leased land. The park would include 25 wind turbines with a generating capacity of up to 60 megawatts of electricity.

Final decision on the project's status rests with the Ohio Power Siting Board, a separate entity within the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. The Power Siting Board meets on Monday, Aug. 25 at 3:30 p.m.

Phil Hartke, past president of the Illinois Farm Bureau Effingham County shared how wind turbines have affected his family.

"I am here because my son, his wife and my grandchildren have gone through hell because of wind turbines," he told those gathered.

Holding up a picture of his son's house located in Vermilion County, Illinois, he said, "He bought this house about six years ago,

summer before the turbines were built he took his family to Bloomington, Illinois, drove down one of the access roads, stood underneath one of the wind turbines, got his family out of the car and said, I think I can live with it. Those turbines are .8 megawatts in power and a little less than 300 foot tall. The wind turbines in Vermilion County (where Ted and his family live) are 400 to 500 feet tall and 1.6 megawatts. He went home thinking they could live with it. He knew there would be a turbine 1,600 feet from his house, he surveyed it. But in January when it was started up the noise that emanated in his house was terrible and they couldn't get any sleep. He called me and said, 'I think this is the biggest mistake I ever made in my life. I didn't join the opposition groups against wind turbines and now we can't sleep in our house. I said, surely it can't be that bad. I suggested he run a fan, an air conditioner or some music at night. He said they tried that and told me there is more noise than any fan can make.' He said, "What made it so bad is noise that doesn't quit. It thumps and you hear it every time the blade turns."

Wind

Continued from Pg. A-1

"I had to move into a mobile home because my mom, dad and brother plus me couldn't sleep."

Said her father: "Our enjoyment of the backyard, garden, outbuildings, tree-house and creekbed has been taken away and replaced with nausea, headaches, irritability and stress."

Hartke compared the noise to a diesel truck parked outside one's bedroom, with the sound increasing as each blade rotates.

"I don't think kids should have to put earmuffs on to sleep," Hartke said.

Monica Jensen, vice president of development of Windlab, said people who live in the area are already subjected to noise.

"The reality is a majority of the group that is opposed to the windfarm (lives) along the railroad tracks," she said.

She added railroad tracks are "in their back yard."

"Their concerns of noise are pretty illogical based on where they live in relationship

to where the nearest turbine is going to be," Jensen said. "They pull vast amount of information off the Internet that is not scientific or peer reviewed."

Jensen said a lot of people live among wind farms "and have no problems whatsoever."

There are 60,000 megawatts of wind being generated in the U.S., Jensen said.

Greenwich area residents have said they hadn't heard about the project until recently.

"We've had multiple meetings at the township level and the county level for the past four years," Jensen said.

She said coal-powered plants are 40- to 60-years old, and with new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations, repairing them can cost billions of dollars — money that gets charged directly to rate payers.

"Anything I try to provide to an anti-wind person, it's perceived, it's made up, it's bogus, (it's) propaganda from (the) wind industry" even if it's peer-reviewed from the scientific community.

"It's never good enough."

dream, a bunch of acres out in the country. He moved to Champaign, Illinois working for an engineering company. The company had a contract with InvEnergy to locate some of these wind turbines. My son was not opposed to the wind turbine industry in any way shape or form," Hartke stated. "He thought it would be good for the school district and good for the county. He thought it would be good for the county because all the roads would get fixed. He was right in both of those cases. But what he was wrong about was the noise that emanated into his home once they started."

Hartke said, his son actually did some of the preliminary surveys as to where to locate some of the turbines and their access roads.

"He thought everything was going to be okay," said Hartke. "A lot of property owners welcomed surveyors because of the money they would make with the turbines located on their land."

Hartke said his son wasn't opposed to landowners making money leasing land for wind turbines.

"When they started the wind turbines in 2013 Ted knew it was the biggest mistake he ever made in his life because of the noise. In the

up and vomit at night for no reason. It took awhile to put all of this together but when they did they approached the wind turbine industry about the noise problem. They were told to get an appraiser to figure out some way to insulate their house from the noise. He was told what was needed were triple pane windows, steel doors and to remove the siding from his house and put up cork insulation. Hartke's son requested names of contractor's to contact. They declined to provide any recommendations.

The estimated cost to noise proof the house was about \$80,000. "There was no way they were going to give him \$80,000 to redo his house and told him he was just stuck with it. He didn't do anything because the contractor told him that even with all the work he did not believe the noise level would be lowered enough."

The only way to keep out the noise the son was told would be a ten foot thick concrete wall below ground. "Some of his neighbors do live in their basements and put mattress against their walls so they can stay in their house," he related.

"My son considered building a basement next to his

See 'Turbines' on page 4



Phil Hartke spoke at the recent meeting held to inform the public about the detrimental effects of wind turbines. (Record Photo - Lynne Phillips)

Turbines

From page 1

house but you shouldn't have to do that. You shouldn't have to build a basement so you can sleep in your house. So he is in a constant battle with the wind turbine industry.

"On Mother's Day the sheriff's department was contacted," Hartke said. "My son decided they could no longer stay in their home. Two deputies arrived and the noise level was 58 decibels in Ted's bedroom. 'He was told by deputies they didn't know how he could sleep in the house and they didn't see how they could even stay in the house. They recommended he get a hotel. He was told they would help him file a complaint against the wind turbine company. Monday morning came, Tuesday morning came and on Wednesday morning the sheriff called and said they would not help file a complaint. The county board had decided they would not participate in the filling of any complaints. If Hartke's son wanted to complain about the wind turbines he would have to file a complaint with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Filing, the first thing the EPA said was he would have to hire an auditor that would give testimony to a state board, conduct a sound study and then testify through an attorney."

"He hasn't gotten through all the steps yet," Hartke commented.

"Citizens," he asked, "can you imagine a county government that won't go to work for you?"

"The noise isn't every night," he said. "It is only at the times when the turbines are turning enough to generate electricity."

Hartke's son's house is directly across from a turbine access road so they see when tourists are taken to view the turbines.

"They pull in with a bus full of people and go out to the turbines. They get off the bus and all they hear is a little 'woosh' sound, it isn't carrying any electricity." Explaining he said, "If they aren't running electricity it's

like shutting off a fan." Then people go and tour the generator plant but an hour after those people leave the power is turned on and those turbines begin generating electricity and that is what creates the noise."

Using a decibel reader and frequency generator Hartke created the same type of noise made by the turbines generating electricity.

Speaking above the noise, Hartke told of a baby born in Ted's neighborhood who failed to thrive. "When the baby was born, it didn't sleep, vomited everyday and couldn't keep its food down. The baby was taken to the doctor," he said, "who switched its formula which didn't help. They were concerned the baby wouldn't live as it was losing weight day after day." At this point baby and mother moved to the grandmother's home in Champaign away from the turbines. Immediately the baby began sleeping, eating and gaining weight. A month later moving back to the home the same thing happened, baby vomiting, not sleeping and losing weight. "It was because the baby was hearing noise the parents couldn't hear and wasn't sleeping at night. I will tell you if you can't sleep at night you can't function during the day. I can tell you that my son and his family changed because of the noise and the change caused marital problems with him and his wife. She had a broken bone in her foot and it took three and half months for it to heal because she wasn't getting any sleep."

Many days, before the turbines were turned on Hartke's grandchildren played outside. "They no longer enjoy being outdoors because the days are filled with constant noise from the turbines. Enjoyment of the outdoors has been taken away and been replaced with nausea, headaches, irritability and stress. When the weather is right the noise is like that of jet planes. Wind turbines are hard on children, pets, parents, even their marriage." He commented. Hartke said his grandchildren were straight A students. "But

not after the wind turbines came."

A letter from the superintendent of schools William Mulvaney, said, "Children appear to have medical issues related to the wind turbines. Headaches, lack of sleep and jaw issues seem to be most common. Students also complain about not being able to sleep due to sound issues." He stated, "We have also been advised that we will be losing families because the wind turbines were placed close to homes and the families can no longer handle the flicker and noise issues."

Two of the turbines within five miles of Hartke's son's home have had massive blade failures. "Blade failures have launched debris fragments up to 1,500 feet." Debris, has come within striking distance of the Hartke home. "There is real danger when the turbines are operating," Hartke stated.

The community, according to Hartke's son, was misled into making poor decisions, which hurt the health and financial well being of his family.

"The turbine industry will tell you they can bring jobs, employment and tax base. They talk about fixing roads and culverts and they do. But, the offshoot is that it is dusty and noisy. Yes, in a few months that goes away, but, they don't take the noise from the turbines with them."

Hartke's family has moved into the city to get away from the noise.

Greenwich Neighbors United (GNU) are very concerned about wind turbine development in their community. A proposal is pending before the Ohio Siting Board which would allow up to 25 wind turbines to be erected in Greenwich Township (Docket # 13-0990-EL-BGN).

During Monday night's meeting of the South Central Board of Education members signed a letter to the Ohio Power Siting Board stating after learning more about possible effects and health concerns they are against wind turbines, according to board member Jeff Oney.

Concerns include noise that

cause adverse health issues including migraine headaches, vertigo, nausea, tinnitus and sleep deprivation.

Impact on wildlife, decreased property values, safety issues including ice throw, turbine fires (usually caused by lightning strikes and catastrophic turbine failure and blade shear.

GNU chairperson Kevin Ledet said, "The more you know about wind turbines the less you like them."

There are seven voting members on the Ohio Power Siting Board. GNU encourages residents to address to the board and its voting members.

In any communication with officials or the Ohio Power Siting Board regarding the wind turbine project in Greenwich Township include the case number 13-0990-EL-BGN.

Voting members are the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. Thomas W. Johnson, Chairman 180 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH. 43215.

Ohio Dept. of Agriculture David Daniels, Director 8995 E. Main St., Columbus, OH. 43215.

Ohio Development Services Agency David Goodman, Director 77 S. High St., Columbus, OH. 43215.

Ohio Department of Health Craig Butler, Director 50 W. Town St., Columbus, OH. 43215.

Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources James Zehringer, Director 2045 Morse Rd, Bldg. D-3, Columbus, OH 43229.

The seventh voting member is Jeffrey J. Lechak, P.E. Email him at conyactOPSB@puc.state.oh.us.

The Interim Director of the Ohio Power Siting Board is Patrick Donlon. Email him at Patrick.Donlon@puc.state.oh.us.

Ledet reminded everyone, "There is no local control of these projects. You must contact the Ohio Power Siting Board."

To contact Phil Hartke for information call 217-821-3126.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Do not make Huron County an alternative energy zone

An open letter to residents of Huron County:
Major decisions have lasting impacts on all things, including Huron County. With the advent of wind turbine projects now entering our communities, there are decisions that our county commissioners are in the position of making. One of them is the possibility of declaring Huron County an alternative energy zone (AEZ). Under Ohio's tax structure, alternative energy generators have a per-megawatt tax burden ranging from \$40,000 to \$115,000. In an alternative energy zone, those per-megawatt taxes are capped at \$9,000.

This represents an incredible reduction of revenue for an already struggling community. If this project is approved by the Ohio Power Siting Board in August 2014, and construction is started, the reduction in property values will decrease the tax revenue even further.

Neighboring counties, Seneca and Sandusky have recently declared themselves alternative energy zones. It appears that their logic was that without this enormous tax break the wind turbine project would be too expensive. Kay Reiter, Sandusky County Economic Development Corporation director, stated, "To bring it down so we could be competitive with other communities across the United States. If the cost is too high, the project just couldn't happen here."

Other communities in the United States do have a distinct advantage over this area. This area is a secondary wind speed area rated 2 by the Department of Energy. Areas to the far west are rated 4-6 and often greater. Those areas also have a population density far less than ours. The encroachment of these industrial rated wind turbines on more densely populated areas is full of pitfalls. Aesthetics, noise, danger to wildlife, danger to property owners, documented increase in health issues and loss of property values are a few of these pitfalls. These industrial wind turbines should not be in my back yard (NIMBY) they should not be in any ones back yard (NIABY). Just because technology says we can doesn't mean we should.

I encourage and urge all residents of Huron County to contact our Huron County commissioners and let them know. Do not make Huron County an alternative energy zone. Email main@hccommissioners.com and make your position known.

Kevin Ledet

Norwalk Reflector

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2014

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wind farm proponents blowing lots of hot air

How long is the wind industry going to be carried on the backs of the American taxpayer?

The taxpayer pays federal taxes. The Production Tax Credit is a tax write-off for big investors in the wind industry. One notable investor admits he uses the PTC to lower his taxes: "We get a tax credit if we build a lot of wind farms. That's the only reason to build them." Do you think the Production Tax Credit ended Dec. 31, 2013? Wrong. Our politicians loop-holed an extension in before the policy ended to protect projects in the works. Still going on until Dec. 31, 2015.

The tax payer pays state taxes. State taxes help to feed state incentives and tax credits and grants which help to encourage wind farms to build in the state.

The taxpayer pays real estate and school taxes. Commercial wind industry approaches county requesting tax abatements, so they don't have to pay taxes.

The taxpayer pays an electric bill. As the wind farm is built, it is connected into the local power grid. To produce electric, it takes additional electric to run, monitor and control a wind turbine. During the summer months (when electric is most in demand) the wind turbine does not generate electricity. No Wind. Yet it feeds off the same grid where the taxpayer is trying to control costs by not over consuming.

How long before the American taxpayer gives wind farms and their supporting politicians the boot? As long as we give the handouts, there is no reason for the wind industry to become a responsible, viable, economical business. The only "green" in wind farm is the green in the pocket of wind farm investors.

No more handouts. No more free rides. No more Production Tax Credit, subsidies, grants, tax abatements.

Have you talked to your federal, state and county elected representatives recently? They need your input.

The Huron County Commissioners need to hear your voice today. Support greenwich-neighborsunited.com.

Jane Hicks
Greenwich

Windlab moving forward

By Jane Ernsberger

With the approval of the Ohio Power Siting Board on Aug. 25, Windlabs Development, LLC of Ann Arbor, Mich. is moving closer to the construction of a windfarm in Greenwich Township. There is a 30-day window for a request for a rehearing from any party that believes its issues were not adequately addressed by the siting board.

In the past, the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard required a portion of the electricity sold to retail customers in Ohio to come from renewable energy sources, according

to the Ohio Revised Code.

"It has been frozen," said Monica Jensen, vice president North America at Windlabs Development, LLC. "It is not in effect right now. The sale of the energy of the project is sold to a fee term and offtake, and there are additional offtakes other than the utility companies which were under that state renewable."

An offtake is an agreement between a producer of a resource and a buyer of a resource to purchase/sell portions of the producer's future production. The agreement is normally negotiated prior to the construction of a facility in

order to secure a market for the future output of the facility.

"There are additional offtakes other than the utility companies which were under that State Renewable Portfolio standards," Jensen said. "Right now, there are many companies that are interested in renewable power," Jensen pointed out. "There is a wide spectrum of companies, including Fortune 500 companies and smaller plants interested in managing their energy costs for the next 20 years."

There had been some tax credits for windfarms and other sources of sustainable energy.

Continued on page 6

2014

WindLab

Continued from front page

This will not be the case for the area windfarm, according to Jensen.

"Clearly, the production tax credit has ended. There was a mechanism for a project rebate production tax to qualify," Jensen pointed out. "However, the Greenwich project is not eligible for the production tax credit."

The price tag for the entire project is approximately \$117 million, according to Jensen. The construction will not be tower-to-tower.

"When the project goes to construction, it is constructed all at once," she explained. "You cut in all the access roads at the same time. You do all the foundations at the same time."

"Turbines are delivered in what we call 'just in time' delivery now," Jensen added. "They're not sitting around and laying around. They get delivered directly to the site

of that turbine and are erected basically as they arrive."

According to the decision from the OPSB, the project is anticipated to increase annual tax revenue for the local tax base, which includes Huron County, Greenwich Township, the Village of Greenwich and the South Central School District. Windlabs is working with the Huron County Board of Commissioners in order to qualify for an exemption on tangible personal property and real property as a qualified energy project. If exempted, the annual service payment in lieu of taxes is expected to be \$9,000 per megawatt of installed capacity. This would increase annual tax revenues by \$540,000 for this 60-MV facility.

Jensen said Windlab has been working with officials in Huron County. Once option is an AEZ, an alternative energy zone, available through the state which then works with a county.

"We are not seeking Huron

County to become an AEZ," Jensen said. "Even though the county is not going to need to approve an AEZ, we are still working with the county on the tax portion of the windfarm."

"The taxes are paid directly to the county," Jensen added. "Then the county distributes the taxes. It is all mandated through the county treasurer."

There were several conditions cited in the approval of the application by the OPSB. Jensen said changes in the OPSB from once-a-month to every three months, the timetable will change slightly for the project.

"We have taken some schedule delays already," Jensen pointed out. "So we are actually in the process of trying to redo our schedule to get back on track."

Jensen said the original goal for the windfarm was to be finished with construction in 2015. "We are still hoping to do that work."

Neighbors weigh the options

By Kyle Bailey

Monday Aug. 25 marked a momentous decision from the Ohio Power Siting Board regarding the Greenwich Windpark, LLC project scheduled to be constructed in Greenwich Township.

Recent backlash from concerned area residents to the board cited several instances of negligence. They included failure to comply with setback regulations and failure to address lack of equipment by the local fire department to address emergency situations. Even with those concerns, the board has decided to grant a certificate for the windpark project to the company.

About 10 members of local group Greenwich Neighbors United, comprised of local

property owners, made the trip to Columbus to be in attendance for the siting board's decision last week.

According to a newsletter written by GNU Chairperson, Kevin Ledet, "Greenwich neighbors are extremely disappointed by OPSB's failure to address issues and concerns raised by local property owners that have submitted hundreds of comments to the board."

Kevin and his wife, Marsha, were both in attendance anxiously waiting to hear the board's decision.

"We have never been involved with a process like this," he pointed out, "and we wanted to go and witness first hand, how the board would handle the final hearing for the project."

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GNU

Continued from front page

Ledet stated that the whole process took about fifteen minutes for the board to review and decide eight separate cases with no public comments allowed since it was the final decisive hearing.

A public adjudicatory hearing was held on May 6 involving Windlab and a handful of local citizens where the court ultimately determined there was no opposition to the project because the township did not have a representing attorney at the hearing.

Due to Greenwich being primarily a small farming community, most of the citizens at the time of the adjudicatory hearing were preoccupied with farm issues because of uncooperative weather, according to Ledet. These issues were raised by the GNU group and Ledet sent a request in late July to the OPSB with a petition of over 300 signatures to try and reschedule the adjudicatory hearing. Ledet stated he had

not received a reply.

At the board hearing on Aug. 25, Senator Skindell (D-Cleveland), on behalf of the Village of Greenwich, encouraged the OPSB to reconsider its decision and to approve the rescheduling of the adjudicatory hearing. Board chairmen Tom Johnson responded by stating the deadline had passed for rescheduling.

"The only positive feedback we have garnered as a community is from our state representatives, such as Skindell, that are on our side and agree that we need more information about the effects of wind turbines," Ledet said. "This experience has been very frustrating because we all have day jobs, and we have had to educate ourselves about the meaning of the wind developer's fine print as well as the Power Siting Board's complicated and challenging process."

When asked what the next steps for GNU would be, Ledet said that his wife Marsha is a member of the Ohio Farm Bureau and the next course of action would

most likely be to reach out to the farm bureau for help, as well as the National Farm Bureau.

"I do not think that the OPSB is thinking about the interest of local farmers regarding the impact that these turbines might have on the area geographically speaking," he said. "We are going to hold a private meeting for GNU at a local residents home and we will discuss several important issues," Ledet said.

"We are going to discuss together as a cohesive group what our next course of action should be as a community because we have 30 days to file an application for a rehearing before the project begins.

"Everything is hectic right now because we are running out of time," Ledet said. "But, we are going to fight this project until we can fight no longer. We are disappointed, but this disappointment will not diminish our resolve to put this right for the benefit of the people who will use and enjoy this land long after our work is done."



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Ohio Site board approves Windfarm

By Kyle Bailey

On Aug. 25, the Ohio Power Siting Board approved the construction of the Greenwich Windpark Project in Huron County. A group of landowners in the affected area have 30 days to file an appeal on the approval.

After reviewing the project application filed on April 19, 2013 and the events that have lead to this decision the board has decided to certificate the project and allow Greenwich Windpark, LLC, based out of Ann Arbor, Michigan and a subsidiary of Windlab Development USA, Ltd, to move onto the next phase of the process.

Some of the steps prior to the approval included a public informational meeting held on May 22, 2013 at South Central High School, a local public hearing held on May 6 at South Central High School and an adjudicatory hearing held May 19.

According to the report filed by the OPSB, it was recommended the board find that the nature of the probable environmental impact has been determined for the proposed facility, and therefore complies with the requirements. Those requirements are specified in Ohio

Revised Code Section 4906.10 (A)(2).

The staff report of the investigation was prepared by the the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio in coordination with several other agencies. They included Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the Ohio Department of Health Ohio Development Services Agency, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio Department of Agriculture, Ohio Department of Transportation, Ohio Historic Preservation Office, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Federal Aviation Administration.

According to the approval granted by the OPSB, Wind Lab will be responsible for constructing and operating the wind turbines that will feature up to 25 units in total, capable of generating up to 60 megawatts for the area. At least 26 landowners will be involved in leasing private lands to provide the 4,650 acres of land required for the windpark project.

The wind turbines that will be used for the project are Nordex model N117 turbines, according to the OPSB. These turbines will stand at a maxi-

Continued on page 4



Members of the Greenwich Neighbors Group traveled to Columbus to attend the Ohio Power Siting Board.

September 2, 2014

loh

n project



Columbus to attend the meeting

HCFB to present informational meeting on Greenwich Wind Park

The Huron County Farm Bureau will present an informational meeting on Monday, September 15 at 7 p.m.

Dale Arnold, director of energy policy with Ohio Farm Bureau, will discuss the Greenwich Wind Park. He will update the audience and inform them of what is currently happening with this project.

The meeting will be held Monday, September 15 at 7 p.m. at the Tri-Community Fire Department, 47, West Main Street in Greenwich.

Suggestions about issues that Huron County Farm Bureau should consider can be called into the bureau at 1-888-292-6442 or e-mailed to huron@ofbf.org.

A meteorological tower standing 262 feet high has been constructed off of Baseline Road to monitor wind resources within the project area. A second tower could be installed at a later date.

Access roads will be constructed totaling 9.1 miles, for utility workers to have access to the turbines, according to plans from Wind Lab.

During construction of the turbines, the roads will be approximately 40 feet wide, while after the installation process the access roads will be approximately 16 feet in width.

Final designs and detailed construction drawings should be completed between August and January 2015.

Wind Lab has proposed that construction is expected to begin in the second quarter of 2015 and should be completed within four to six months.

Upon completion, facilities should be operational, which is anticipated for the fourth quarter of 2015.

Wind

continued from page 1

imum height of up to 490.5 feet with a maximum rotator diameter of 383 feet.

Wind Lab has projected it expects these turbines will be capable of providing approximately 210,000 megawatt hours annually to the village.

To operate and maintain the turbines, Wind Lab, in the report submitted by the OPSB, has proposed that a 6,000 square foot operations and maintenance building is necessary to house operations personnel, provide parking, and store equipment and materials.

Currently, Wind Lab is looking to use an existing structure; however, it is possible that a brand new building may be constructed to serve those purposes.

Any new building constructed would need to involve no less than three acres of land for facilities as well as be aesthetically pleasing and comparable to other area agricultural buildings. According to Wind Lab, the tentative location for the proposed O&M building is located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Ohio 13 and Plymouth East Road.

Greenwich residents unite — 'We are awake now'

JOE CENTERS
 Editor/Managing Editor
 jcenters@norwalkreflector.com

GREENWICH — The fight is not over. Residents know they have battle on their hands, but they haven't given up in their opposition to a windpark in their community. On Monday, the Ohio Power Siting Board approved the Greenwich Windpark, LLC. Kevin Ledet, of rural Greenwich, spoke at Tuesday's Huron County commissioners meeting and said now that the windfarm is approved, it's important the commissioners do not approve an alternative energy zone or any other type of tax abatement for the windfarm so, at least, the county can reap the full benefit of the project.

"I'm really proud of the people of Greenwich for stepping up," Ledet said.



referring to the recent stand many residents took against the project.

"But, we as a community dropped the ball," he added. "I did, as an individual."

Ledet said the windfarm was a "done deal" long before Monday's hearing.

"There were seven or eight cases and in 12 minutes, they were all approved," he said, referring to an Ohio Power Siting Board's recent meeting during which they approved the Greenwich project.

Connie Oney, a member

of Greenwich Neighbors United (www.greenwich-neighborsunited.com), was at Monday's meeting in Columbus.

"There were about 13 people (supporting Greenwich) there," Oney said.

"We have 30 days to

apply for another hearing. (Opposition to) every other wind project was completely denied. We had hundreds of people petitioning. We had hundreds who wrote to the board."

See UNITE / Pg. A-4

Reading the hometown newspaper of the Steven Fox family of Norwalk • Call 419-638-2773 to subscribe

United

Continued from Pg. A-1

Oney said State Sen. Bill Seitz (R, District 8), State Sen. Michael J. Skindell (D, District 23), State Sen. Gayle Manning (R, District 13), Sen. Manning and State Rep. Terry Boose (R, Norwalk Township) have stepped up to support the residents of Greenwich.

"All of these people wrote the Ohio Power Siting Board on our behalf. They ignored all of our requests. They ignored all of the citizens who will be impacted. They just rubber-stamped every application.

"We've got a lot of work to do. We have put our hearts and souls into this for three solid months. If we didn't have any government people on our side, we would have no chance.

"Wind power is not green. They are subsidized by our tax money, over 65 percent of them. They are built in

they tried to move in, but we are awake now. They are in for a fight.

"A few of us got together in June, then we have over 100 people with signs in town. Everybody wants a sign."

Oney said their group has the backing of the South Central Local Schools.

"Our board of education would not accept their blood money," she said.

Superintendent David Brand said the district has taken no official action on the windfarm, but a member of the school board sent this letter to the siting board:

"This letter is in reference to the wind farm going into our community. We realize that the proper setbacks, laws and public hearing procedures were followed to get to this point but the people in our community were sold on new tax dollars for our schools, township and fire department without realizing the size, scale and potential problems associated with the wind turbines. As a board of

how they can affect our children coming to school energized and ready to learn, as well as adults in their work place, not to mention in their homes.

"We now have a peaceful, rural setting and we would hate to see it ruined for a short term profit for our community."

The letter was signed by Brand, treasurer Beth Lykins, board president Bryan Hamman, along with board members Jeff Oney, Bob Morgan, Michael West and Leann Palm.

"It was not action by the board," Brand stressed. "It was a letter by people who make up the board. I felt I needed to relay what was expressed to me from different people in the community. It is a public letter with concerns of opposition to the windfarm."

What if it would bring money to the school and community?

"You have to listen when it comes to jobs or advancements or bringing anything



Times-Gazette photo/Tom E. Puskar

A sign on U.S. 224 east of Greenwich opposes a Windlab wind turbine farm that will be built on 4,650 acres southeast and east of the village. The Ohio Power Siting Board approved Windlab's certificate to put 25 wind turbines on the property.

The winds of change

Windlab receives OK to build turbine farm near Greenwich

By DAN KUBACKI
T-G Staff Writer

GREENWICH — Despite campaigning by Greenwich residents to keep the neighborhood free of a proposed wind turbine farm, the Ohio Power Siting Board has decided to allow the facility to be built.

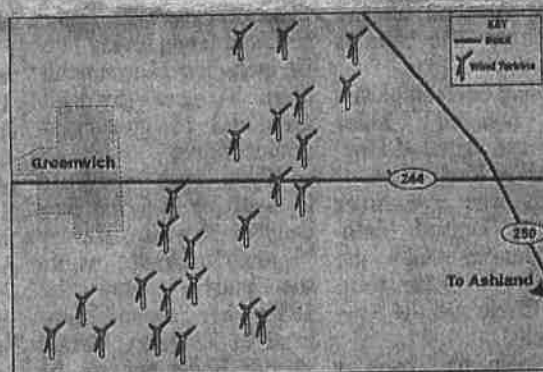
About 4:30 p.m. Monday, the board announced its decision to grant a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need to international wind energy company Windlab. The certificate permits the company to build a 25-turbine wind farm southeast and east of the village of Greenwich within 4,650 acres of leased private land inside Greenwich Township in Huron County, just northwest of Ashland County.

The facility will generate about 60 megawatts of electricity. Construction will begin in 2015, despite the public outcry from Greenwich residents, who formed Greenwich Neighbors United to fight Windlab's new facility.

Windlab vice president of development Monica Jensen said Monday that she has received many complaints about the wind farm from village and township residents in Greenwich, but added the wellspring of complaints has spouted in the final stages of the project's planning.

"It's disheartening when people come out of the woodwork and say, 'We didn't know anything about it,'" Jensen said. "We've been working there (in Greenwich) in earnest for about two years and have held public meetings. It wasn't until the ninth hour when it seemed like we shook the hornet's nest."

Although the company finally submitted an



Times-Gazette graphic

Windlab plans to build 25 wind turbines to the east and southeast of Greenwich in 2015. The turbines are Nordex N117s that are about 490½ feet tall.

application to the Ohio Power Siting Board in December 2013, Windlab has had an interest in the land near the village since 2009, when the site was first identified as a potential premium location for a wind farm.

The company then proceeded with lease discussions with landowners the following spring through 2012, and in May 2010, Windlab even constructed a meteorological tower to further measure the wind resource available in the area.

According to its online application filed with the Ohio Power Siting Board in December 2013,

Turn to **WINDS**, Page A6

FROM PAGE 1

A6 TUESDAY AUGUST 26, 2014

Company had public meeting about plans in May 2013

WINDS

Continued from Page A1

Windlab had a public community meeting May 22, 2013, at South Central High School to discuss the project. At the time, it described the early public meetings as "well-received" and community relations as "positive."

But on the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio's online docket, scores of opposition letters have been filed from concerned Greenwich residents.

Bonnie Rhine wrote to the power siting board with concerns of the turbines' vibrations having an adverse effect on Greenwich's agriculture, and spoke of the deep connection she has to the area.

"If I had desired to be exposed to constant noise and turmoil, I would have lived in the city," Rhine wrote. "I chose small town and country life because I wanted as peaceful, safe and healthy environment for my family as possible. Large companies should not

be allowed to prey upon small towns."

John Vogel raised questions of the turbines' effect on human health, including fears of insomnia caused by the sound produced by the turbines at night.

"It is my strong belief that these turbines will have a negative impact on my family's health, my economic well-being and overall happiness while living in my home," Vogel wrote.

Jensen said she has seen some ugly behavior from Greenwich residents opposed to the

project, whom she described as landowners adjacent to the property leased to Windlab.

"Some of the opposition has not been very kind to those landowners that have leased property," Jensen said. "It doesn't sit well with me."

Jensen maintained that the wind farm has plenty of benefits for the village and township. The project application specifically states the facility will generate new tax revenues and "have a significant impact on the local tax base," includ-

ing Huron County, Greenwich Township and South Central Local Schools.

"It's really a good, small project," Jensen said. "It's not going to get bigger. The wind resources are very well-defined. This is the highest point in Huron County, and after four years of measurements, it absolutely supports a wind farm. It's a viable and good resource, probably the best in the state."

■ Dan Kubaacki can be reached at 419-281-0581, ext. 237, or at dkubaacki@times-gazette.com.

Central district concerned over windfarm

By Kyle Bailey

About ten concerned local Greenwich citizens voiced their opinions to South Central School Board members at the August meeting. Parents of children attending the public schools, as well as several other concerned residents alike, made an appearance at the monthly school board meeting to discuss their displeasure with the proposed windfarm project.

Many residents of Greenwich feel as if their voice is not being heard by the Ohio Public Utilities Commission and the Ohio Public Siting Board.

Kevin Ledet, a local resident of Greenwich Township for 38 years, gave several examples of research that has been conducted about wind turbines and the effects that they not only have on adults, but also about the susceptibility of children to them.

After researching online about wind turbines, Ledet discussed his concern about issues associated with infrasound, which is a low frequency sound emitted by wind turbines, and the effects it has on humans. Infrasound is emitted at 20 hertz or less from one wind turbine and collectively four can carry up to 2.4 miles.

Ledet stated infrasound can cause a cascade of effects, ranging from decreased auditory capabilities to sleep deprivation from the continual running of the windfarms.

"I realize that this wind turbine project has the potential of generating a lot of money for the school district," he said. "But after having conducted my own research and listening to testimonies from others, I am seriously concerned for the wellbeing of the children of this area and the effect it will have on their performance in school."

Mike Robinson, a

Greenwich Township trustee, contributed to Ledet's speech about health hazards by adding the wind turbines would not only emit low frequency sound, but they could also cause light flickering in residents' homes. Light flickering caused by local windfarms has been attributed to initiating migraines and seizures in citizens, he said. Several people in this community that are epileptic and could potentially be negatively effected.

Robinson also raised concern for the amount of money that taxpayers would be held accountable for contributing to the funds. Sixty-percent of taxpayers' money is going to be used to subsidize the wind turbines he said. "Sixty-percent of our tax dollars is a high price to pay, although the turbines would be bringing in money to the school district."

Besides the price that taxpayers would have to pay, Robinson also mentioned his concern about loss of property value for local residents. "If you think these things are not good looking now, they will only continue to get worse and devalue our property."

Jessica Williams, a mother of a middle school student, shared her sentiments about children with learning disabilities. Williams said that she has struggled herself with the effects of ADD and knows how difficult it can be for kids to integrate and learn in a normal environment. She said she is concerned about how the infrasound could dramatically effect these types of children in particular, since they already suffer from learning disabilities.

Heidi Johnson, a mother of two graduates from South Central, discussed her family's experience with alternative energy and how they almost had wind turbines placed on their property to help with energy conservation. She stressed her family was not against alternative energy, because they have geothermal

energy in place right now, but that wind turbines have several significant potential side effects, as well as not being an overall good investment.

"Over 900 families will be within one mile of a wind turbine," she said. "Not all these people will be children, but a lot of people will be affected."

"We had a wind turbine company come to us about 10 years ago," she added. "To have a 40-foot turbine placed on our property, we were told it would cost \$25,000, and would only produce about \$30 a month worth of electricity. It did not take us long to realize that these wind turbines were really inefficient and were not a good investment."

Once the allotted time had passed for patrons of the community to speak, board member Mike West spoke on behalf of the board of education members present.

West said he has talked to a superintendent from another school district that has had wind turbines. He wanted to know how they affect that community and found out they have estimated around two- to three-percent of their children have been negatively effected by the turbines.

"That would roughly effect around 15-20 students here at South Central" he said. "I have constructed a letter to be signed and sent to the Ohio Siting Board to have this issue declined, and I know the majority of the board is in favor of this decision. I do not know if it will do any good, but I wanted to inform you that the school has been listening and you have our support."

Ultimately, the decision to place the wind turbines in the South Central area is in the hands of PUCO and OPSB; however, with the momentum gain of support, local citizens hope that their efforts will not go unnoticed. A meeting will be held Monday August 25 in Greenwich township to address the final decision of OPSB.



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Lines, wind farm ok'd

Opponents of Greenwich Township wind farm vow to keep fighting

TOM JACKSON SANDUSKY AUG 28, 2014

jackson@sanduskyregister.com

The Ohio Power Siting Board has approved two controversial electrical utility projects in northern Ohio.

Meeting Monday in Columbus, the board approved a plan to run a power line that will stretch from Fremont to near Sandusky. The board said the Hayes-West Fremont 138 kilovolt Transmission line will bypass Peninsular Farms, a historic property near Fremont. A previous proposed route had threatened the farm. The line is being built by American Transmission Systems, Inc., a subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corporation.

The board also authorized 6011 Greenwich Windpark, LLC, a subsidiary of Windlab Developments USA, to build the Greenwich Windpark, which will put up to 25 wind turbines in Greenwich Township in southern Huron County. It will be a 60-megawatt wind park.

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Opponents of the project said they haven't given up and will seek a rehearing.

The planned Hayes-West Fremont line will run about 30 miles in an east-west direction from a West Fremont substation to new Hayes Substation in Erie County, on U.S. 4 between Fox Road and Bogart Road.

The initial route would have passed through Peninsular Farms, which is located along the Sandusky River just north of Fremont and which is the site of an old trading post run by Elizabeth Foulks Whittaker, who in 1813 learned of a pending British attack on Fort Stephenson, now the site of Fremont's public library. She warned the defenders that the British were coming, and the Americans, led by Major George Croghan, won an important victory.

First Energy responded to the criticism by proposing a new route that bypasses Peninsular Farms.

The Greenwich Windpark will cover 4,650 acres of land leased from 26 landowners. The wind farm will be located east of Greenwich and just north of Richland County.

The wind turbines will be up to 490.5 feet tall, with rotor diameters of up to 383 feet.

The wind farm drew a mostly favorable reception during a May 6 public hearing held at South Central High School in Greenwich.

Opponents of the wind farm, however, have been gathering steam. An organization that opposes the wind farm, Greenwich Neighbors United, said they are unhappy about the board's decision and will continue to fight the project.

The group's chairman, Kevin Ledet, said his group will take advantage of its right to file an application for a rehearing. The group has 30 days to file its application.

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"We've lived in this community a long time. We've raised our families here. We thought we did what we were told to do by the Power Siting Board to put issues and concerns before the board. We expected to see a board decision that fairly addressed these issues and concerns. So far, the board's response indicates that it is up to us to protect our farmland, homes and our community from this wind farm developer," Ledet said.

Gerald and Connie Obey, who own about 1,200 acres of farmland that will be next to the wind park, filed a motion to intervene on Aug. 21. The Obeyes contend that at the very least, a second public hearing should be held on the matter. Greenwich Windpark, the company that is developing the wind park, replied that the Obeyes haven't shown a good reason why they waited until the last minute to file their request.

The board rejected the Obeyes' request, noting that it was turned in 125 days after the deadline.

Comments

Jim Wiegand

THU, 08/28/2014 - 12:58PM

I have some advice for those planning to make comments on the proposed 30 year eagle killing permits for the wind industry before the deadline on Sept 22.

Do not beat around the bush with your statements. If you think they are liars, tell them. If you think they have been hiding the bodies of endangered species and thousands of eagles, tell them. If you think they are rigging studies and surveys, tell them. If you believe that having wings or legs chopped off by a turbine blades and then left to die is 1st degree animal cruelty, tell them.

Then make them answer very direct and uncomfortable questions. Do not worry about being polite because they do not deserve it.

Also remember this, the FWS answers to the Interior Department and the Interior Department unfortunately answers to the wind industry. These are the bad guys in this and the corruption taking place flows down in this order.

Lastly I will point out something very obvious.....

The Industry has only reported a handful of bald eagles ever having been killed by wind turbines across America . Yet in new projects where their bodies will be found by the public the because of les isolated turbine locations, the FWS estimates that 15-43 Bald Eagles will be killed annually by a single project like that planned on Chesapeake Bay.

How could such eagle mortality estimates ever be made when tens of thousands of turbines running for decades across the remote regions of America have reportedly killed just 6 bald eagles?

The reason for this absurdity is that they (FWS and Interior Department) already know how deadly these turbines are to bald eagles. They know this from the unreported bald eagles being killed at wind farms and their carcasses then shipped off to the National Eagle Repository.

Since 1997 approximately 28,600 eagle carcasses have been shipped to Denver . Of these carcasses approximately 18,000 have been bald eagles. The public only knows what happened to 6 of these bald eagles (Pagel FWS 2013). Last year the parts("pieces") and bodies from 1795 bald eagles were reported being shipped to the Repository .

As I pointed out earlier if you think they are liars tell them.

The Bizness

Greenwich residents frustrated by wind farm decision

Group against turbines going up near village could petition siting board to reconsider

By DAN KUBACKI
T-G Staff Writer

GREENWICH — Greenwich Neighbors United was dealt a blow Monday as Windlab was granted approval to construct a 25-turbine wind farm outside the village.

But Greenwich resident Connie Oney said the group still is mobilizing despite the Ohio Power Siting Board's decision to grant Windlab a certificate

of environmental compatibility and public need, allowing the international company to begin construction on the wind farm in 2015.

"We were so angry and disappointed they ignored our request, but we are regrouping," Oney said Tuesday.

The only option left to Greenwich Neighbors United is to petition the board to revisit its ruling by filing a motion to

reconsider, according to Matt Butler, OPSB's public outreach manager. But anyone filing the petition must represent an interest or angle that "was not adequately considered in the proceeding," according to the Ohio Revised Code.

Oney said she and 12 other Greenwich residents attended Monday's siting board meeting, but weren't allowed an opportunity to address the board. But

Ohio state Sen. Michael Skindell, D-Lakewood, did address the siting board at length on Greenwich's behalf.

"We're still recovering from the shock of working three solid months, and we didn't get a chance to speak," Oney said.

But Greenwich received support from Skindell, state senators Bill Seitz, R-Cincinnati, and

Turn to **DECISION**, Page A8

Some state lawmakers request another hearing

DECISION

Continued from Page A1

Gayle Manning, R-North Ridgeville, and state Rep. Terry Boose, R-Norwalk. In a letter to the siting board, Manning requested an additional public hearing be scheduled to discuss the wind farm.

"I request the board's consideration of an additional public hearing to allow opportunity to address concerns more broadly before the board makes further determinations on the project," Manning's Aug. 20 letter satated.

In his letter, Boose referenced a public meeting conducted May 6 in Greenwich.

"Many constituents were not aware of this meeting and attendance was low," Boose wrote in an Aug. 20 letter. "Since

that time, my office has been contacted by numerous individuals from the Greenwich community asking for an additional meeting, as they have many concerns that they would like the board to address."

While the petition for reconsideration would not necessarily schedule another public hearing, Oney challenged Windlab to present its project in front of a now-stirred-up Greenwich community.

"If they have nothing to hide, why shouldn't Windlab have a public meeting?" Oney said. "They caught us while we were sleeping, and now we're awake. But they definitely don't want to talk to us."

■ Dan Kubacki can be reached at 419-281-0581, ext. 237, or at dkubacki@times-gazette.com.

WEDNESDAY

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DWITH

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I, for one, know that there are many more people who knew nothing of this project until recently. It has been underway and leased to landowners in the area four years ago. We were sleeping! If I was told four years ago when proposed leases were sold to the wind farm organization that I was on a gag order and couldn't talk to anyone about it, there would have been a big flag go up. I would have to think long and hard before I leased my land to someone, especially if it was going to affect my neighbors in any way.

This proposed project is not going to benefit anyone in Greenwich — no jobs, no orders for all the cement that goes into the ground, or parts for the windmills and it will destroy our roads when they truck the huge parts into our community and farm lands. It will only profit the landowner that leased their land and help a private organization that owns them. We as taxpayers are paying for these, and adding to our national debt, because they are government subsidized.

The first concern is for the health of our fellow citizens, and I can't see anything that is going to be healthy about these windmills. Only harm and dissension will happen within our community. Please be educated on the effects of a wind farm in our area and care about our town and properties. It is our responsibility as residents to write the Ohio Power Siting Board and tell them we are opposed to the wind farm, case No. 13-0990-EL-BGN.

Joanne Hintz
Greenwich

NORWALK
Reflector

A-2 / Thursday, August

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Nothing good can come out of these wind farms

I have lived in the Greenwich area for 46 years. I moved here from Mansfield to a lovely little community that I was very proud of. My children have settled here also. I thought it was a small, friendly town that people visited, worked, farmed and enjoyed the lovely rural, agricultural area. Yes, we hear a few trains go through, they blow their whistle at the crossings and then the sound is gone.

Lately, I see many changes. We have a pipeline digging up people's property, new gas lines being dug and now the talk of a wind farm project looming in the air. I recently attended a couple of meetings about the Neighbors of Greenwich United who have formed to educate people of our town on what is being proposed to be erected in our area. Twenty-five windmills nearly 500 feet in the air and only 1,000 feet from some homes. We have learned these windmills are loud and flash a pulsating flash into windows of homes. Some people can't sleep, and the lack of sleep has caused many health issues. To say nothing of the effects these windmills will have on wildlife.

Industrial wind turbines and wildlife

What happens when wild life encounters 485 foot tall machines with approximately 300 foot long blades revolving at 175 mph?

Ask Mark Shieldcastle, research director of Black Swamp Bird Sanctuary.

While sizing up an area for wind turbines, bird studies are done. Recently, Mr. Shieldcastle explained to the Greenwich Neighbors United how skewed these studies can be. Bird fatality count is usually taken mornings, but what happens when the blade from an industrial wind turbine hits a songbird?

It can be thrown so far that it will never be seen again and, if it were, there would only be a fluff of scattered feathers left. We have many, many bald eagles in our township. Turbines can kill them with no punishment but a pat on the hand. If there is evidence that they have killed a certain number the wind businesses can be fined but what is left after one lies all night on the ground? Predators have it for dinner and there is nothing left to count. Bats lungs burst when they approach these monsters. They cause wildlife (deer, turkeys, etc.) to leave the area.

Please help the citizens of Greenwich fight these industrial machines by voicing your vote against them to contact OPSB@puc.state.oh.us. This is our last week to voice our opposition before the board votes to allow or disallow them in our community. Help us with your public support or our town will be changed forever. You think trains are bad, wait until these monstrosities come to town.

Connie Oney
Greenwich

Wind turbines not worth all the problems

One of the biggest problems with wind turbines is that they don't produce enough electricity to justify all the hazards. They actually pull electric from the main grid to keep the blades turning when there is not enough wind.

They are not a good solution for a town like Greenwich that does not have steady wind. However, the company that plans to install them gets big federal dollars to put them up so it needs to find a little community to sneak them in before the affected neighbors realize what's happening.

Four years ago they found a farmer in Greenwich who leased his land for the windmills but he had to sign a nondisclosure stating that he would not tell any of the bordering property owners what was planned.

No one knew anything about the construction of these massive 500-foot monsters until the company was required to have a public hearing just recently. Now that we know what's going on it's almost too late to object. We are scrambling to get a little more time so that they can at least be put up farther away from our homes.

Please help us put a stop to the destruction of our quiet, picturesque community —
<http://greenwichneighborsunited.com/>

Suzanna Lynch
Columbus

VISITING VIEWPOINT

Wind turbines are a bad deal

ROBERT
SHERWIN

There is trouble brewing in Greenwich in southern Huron County. A proposed wind park has residents in the rural farming community worried and their worries are justified. The wind park will be built on 4,600 acres of privately-leased land and would consist of 25 wind turbines that are nearly 500 feet tall with a blade span on 380 feet.

On Wednesday, I had the pleasure of attending a public meeting with many of the town's residents. A



Sherwin

demonstration of the harmful consequences of wind turbines was given by Illinois resident Phil Hartke. Mr. Hartke told the heartbreaking story of his son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren. After suffering months of insomnia caused by the low frequency sound that is emitted from the tur-

bines, the closest being 1,665 feet from their home, they were forced to abandon the house, leaving it virtually worthless.

Health issues are not the only unintended consequences of wind farms, including the lowering of property values and environmental impact. As a Libertarian I hold property rights very high on a pedestal, but respect for others property even higher. I am publicly opposing the construction of this project as it clearly violates the rights of not only neighboring farms, but all of the residents of Greenwich.

Even if you do not live in Greenwich I urge all of you in Huron County to contact your elected officials at the local, state and federal levels and urge them not to give tax abatements to the company that is leasing this land. This is the only recourse that the people of Greenwich have left to stop this project. Remember, it could be your backyard next.

Robert Sherwin

Windfarm project topic of discussion during Greenwich Township meeting

By Craig Shoup

A crowd of 50 residents and supporters gathered at the July 29 Greenwich Township Trustees meeting to voice their concerns for the potential windfarm project. Trustees Walter Leber, Jr. and Mike Robinson reiterated that local government has no control over the project.

Robinson said this issue involves a private business working with citizens of the township to use their land to build the wind turbines.

"We talked to state representatives, county commissioners and legal council. There is nothing that we can do to stop this," he explained. "The only thing we can do to affect them is to come up with regulations on how they will repair the roads and bridges they destroy."

Resident Kevin Ledet said he

took a survey of adjacent landowners to properties where wind turbines will be located. He said there are 29 landowners who have signed leases for the wind farm. There are 124 adjacent owners to those properties.

"Out of those people, 15 had no response, 34 had no comment, whether for or against," Ledet said. "There were two that were for the project and 73 against the project. Of those 75 people right there, we have addresses and names. That's 97-percent of adjacent property owners who are against it."

According to Ledet, the data was collected from the properties that will directly be affected by the turbines from the Ohio Power Siting Board. The data was sent to the OPSB because it has the final vote to determine if the windfarm comes to the township.

Ledet pointed out property

owners who have signed lease agreements support the project and are compensated by Windlab for the use of their land. He noted many of them are under a gag order to not discuss the project.

After attending a Huron County Commissioners meeting, Ledet said the commissioners have informed him Windlab will not be given any reduction in tax if they ask.

"They will be taxed at whatever rate the State of Ohio deems necessary," Ledet said. "I believe that is a good thing. Let them pay their fair share."

Ledet asked trustees if the township could benefit from becoming an enterprise zone.

Resident Valerie Malicki said the township could demand a full property value agreement. She said counties in Indiana and others in Ohio have tried to become

Continued on page 3

Township

From the front page

enterprise zone areas to force windfarm companies to either pull out of the project or ensure fair compensation for sold homes.

Robinson said he has looked at criteria to become an enterprise zone. He noted the village would meet the required population of having 1,044 residents.

"It has to be an area that is open to industry," he said. "Most of ours is agricultural. That would be the problem."

Township fiscal officer Jane Hicks said she also looked at the enterprise zone possibility. She was not sure if the windfarm project would qualify to be an enterprise zone.

"It seems like the focus of the enterprise zone is the creation and maintenance of jobs," she said. "I don't know, other than the particular structures, are there going to be an office of employment?"

Ledet said the staff report given to township residents states there will be four jobs created after the construction is complete. He noted the report states there is \$215,000 earmarked for payroll.

"My question is," Ledet noted, "if this is not an industrial area, how can you drop industrial wind turbines on top of an agricultural area?"

Robinson said the windfarm is considered a public utility because it is creating energy that would be placed on the electrical grid for public use. "You can't stop power lines from coming through your property," he pointed out.

As a resident of the township, Robinson said he is opposed to the windfarm project. As a trustee, he said he is willing to write a certified letter if residents can get more than half of the registered voters in town to voice their displeasure for the project.

Leber said he tries to stay neutral as a trustee on the issue because it is his job as an elected official to bring revenue and jobs into the community. From that standpoint, he said the township

has been promised \$40,000 per year for the life of the turbines. The lifetime is between 20 and 25 years. The county and the school district will also receive money from the project.

He said he went to a township near Van Wert to look at their windfarm, which has 80 turbines.

"I got about 100 feet away from them and that was enough for me," said Leber. "They are loud."

Leber asked residents to raise their hand for support or opposition for the windfarms. Every person raised their hand in opposition. He told them to continue writing OPSB members and posting comments on the OPSB website.

There will be a windfarm meeting at the Coonhunter's Club, 3221 Plymouth East Road, on August 13 and 14 at 7 p.m. There will be windfarm testimonials during the two meetings.

In other township business, Robinson and Leber voted to approve an additional \$4,000 cost for the Plymouth East Road project. The township initially was set to pay \$5,000 for the project, but an updated proposal has increased exca-

vation and asphalt.

Hicks said she received an updated bill. The majority of the project would be paid from a grant for \$30,000.

After reviewing the updated budget, Robinson said the township will have \$116,000 in the budget to repair roads. An estimate to repair roads has increased, he noted.

There are two projects quotes. One project was estimated at \$80,000 and the second is estimated at \$95,000.

Robinson said the township has 400 tons of stone ready to be used for the road projects. If the trustees do multiple projects, they will need 600 tons of stone. The additional cost would be \$3,100.

Leber said the township should wait to decide on the projects and ask trustee Dave Seidel what roads he is seeking to repair through grants. "The reason I want to wait is because I want to see what the pipeline people are going to do about the roads they need to work on."

The township will hold a special meeting on August 6 at 10 a.m. During the meeting only road construction projects can be discussed.

"Wind Farms" destroy rural property values and way of life

To the Editor:

Is your family and the way of life you enjoy in Greenwich worth protecting? And, if you were threatened, what lengths would you go in order to protect them? Unfortunately this scenario has now been forced upon the rural community of Greenwich.

You may ask how can this be happening? It is happening because of government legislation mandating alternate renewable energy sources without due regard to the negative effects of both land and citizenry. Vast amounts of tax dollars are handed over to wind developers making it highly profitable for them to construct wind farms right on top of existing rural communities.

Many people's lives all over the world, including Australia, Canada and the United States, have already been adversely impacted. There are many who report experiencing insomnia, headaches and the once thriving

wildlife populations have been diminished to the point of disappearing. The landscape is swallowed up by their mere presence and the strobe/flicker effect the sun creates filtering through the blades is more than just a little annoying. What about property values? Are you ready for the possibility of having to move and sell your homestead below market value, that is, if you can sell it?

Many lies, misrepresentations, and broken promises are characteristic of big wind developers to leverage the installation of these so-called wind farms. Greenwich please do your research, your way of life just may depend on it! One website, www.wind-watch.org/videos.php is a great place to begin. And please go to the Ohio Power Siting Board and let your voice be heard (always refer to case No. 13-0990-EL-BGN).

Dennis Albert
Representing Greenwich
Neighbors United

Tuesday, July 1, 2014 - ENTERPRISE REVIEW, Page 3

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wind farms aren't worth the risk

I am extremely concerned about the Greenwich Windpark project proposed for Greenwich Township, both on a personal and community level. There are no reports that the promised results for wind energy have ever been reached, but many reports about the negative effects inflicted in a two- to five-mile radius.

The 29 property owners signing contracts with Windlab Systems kept their mouths shut for four years. Is there any time in your life that you knew 29-plus people keeping their mouths shut for four years? The surrounding 900-plus residents knew nothing about the project until it was too late to protest. The public meetings were scheduled before anyone realized industrial size structures were in their future, rather than cute, non-threatening, windmills.

I have done some research and visited the Van Wert area and spoke with residents there. In each area, the majority of residents were not affected and enjoy the money being dumped into the community. Also in each area, lives were ruined due to physical/mental health issues or loss of property values. Neither the developers nor the landowners can control which property will be the recipient of bad tidings. Studies that I have read report more carbon being put into the atmosphere erecting turbines than they can possibly recover in their 20-year life. Can we risk inflicting hardship on residents with so little proof of positive ecological results? Do we want to deface our properties forever for a paycheck that lasts only 15 to 20 years? We are a farm community making choices for future generations that will have to live with the results of our folly without the financial benefits.

Even if you have previously signed a survey that you were against the project, write your congressmen, the township trustees and the Ohio Power Siting Board.

The Siting Board is at 180 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio 43215 or can be e-mailed at contactOPSB@puc.state.oh.us.

Virginia Robson
Greenwich

Enterprise-Review

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Edition of the Shopper's Helper
Shelby Daily Globe Inc.

Tuesday
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Greenwich, North Fairfield and Shiloh

rd graders pass guarantee

Reading Guarantee, they would still be considered a third grade student until they pass.

Brand said it is a testament to all the teachers, not just in third grade, to help keep their students on track. He said parents have taken the initiative at home to ensure their children are prepared to read.

In order to comply with the Free and Reduced Lunch Program, the district is being forced to raise the price of lunches. Brand said under the program, the school should be selling lunches at \$2.65.

That, he noted, is considered the minimum. Since school lunches have been priced far less than the standard, the program is asking districts to raise

their prices a minimum of \$0.10.

Board member Bob Morgan suggested raising the prices a combined \$0.25 to creep closer to the total.

The new prices, starting this fall, will be \$2.15 for lunches served to kindergartners through eighth graders. High school students will pay \$2.35 for lunches.

The board accepted school fees for students in kindergarten through eighth grade. For the 2014-2015 school year, fees will be \$20 per student, with a family cap not to exceed \$100.

Local resident Valerie Malicki addressed the board with concerns over the poten-

tial wind turbine project in Greenwich Township. She said her biggest concern is what possible affects the turbine farm could have on children and adults.

"Does anybody really know a lot about these wind turbines?" asked Malicki.

Her question was not met with any yes answers. Malicki claimed turbines can become a deterrent in the development of children. One example she pointed out was with the noise a turbine makes, keeping children awake or forcing them to wake up throughout the night.

Malicki said her research has found that turbine noise is

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Photo by CRAIG SHOUP

Greenwich resident Valerie Malicki speaks to the Board of Education about the proposed wind farm in Greenwich Township.

School Board

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ot closely related to the sound of a refrigerator, like they have been told. She noted studies have shown the noise can carry up to three miles away from the site. Several families could be affected in Greenwich.

"I've talked to families that live in Greenwich who plan to open enroll their kids at other schools," she said.

Malicki said she would like the district to hold a meeting to get more information about the affects of the turbines and to hear testimony from people who have been negatively affected living next to wind turbines.

The board moved to accept a contract extension for the South Central Education Association. Brand said the new contract will take effect July 1 and will be in place for two years.

Brand was also approved for a two year extension to remain superintendent through July 31, 2017.

Board member Jeff Oney

asked treasurer Beth Lykins if she can compile data on how much it costs to operate mowing during the summer months. He said if it made more sense the district should look into contracting out their mowing during the summer because of how much money it takes to fuel and fix current machines.

"With how busy our custodians are inside during the summer, I think it is something to look into," said Oney.

Morgan said the district could look into upgrading equipment to help cut repair costs. As the Huron County Fair Board president, he said they upgrade equipment regularly for \$1,200. They avoid repair costs, and with the large plot of land, that comes in handy. The mow time for the fairgrounds can take up to eight hours.

The board of education entered into executive session to consider employment and/or dismissal of public employees, and to consider compensation of public employees. No action followed. A special board meeting June 25 at 7 p.m. to review the end of the fiscal year numbers,

Residents hear firsthand account on turbines

By Lynne Phillips

More than 40 area residents gathered near Greenwich for a presentation about the detrimental effect of wind turbines.

Phil Hartke, past president of the Illinois Farm Bureau Effingham County shared how wind turbines have affected his family.

"I am here because my son, his wife and my grandchildren have gone through hell because of wind turbines," he told those gathered.

His son moved to Champaign, Illinois working for an engineering company. The

company had a contract with InvEnergy to locate some of these wind turbines.

"My son was not opposed to the wind turbine industry in any way shape or form," Hartke stated. "He thought it would be good for the school district and good for the county.

"He thought it would be good for the county because all the roads would get fixed. He was right in both of those cases," Hartke noted. "But, what he was wrong about was the noise that emanated into his home once they started.

"He thought everything was going to be okay," said Hartke. "A lot of property owners wel-

comed surveyors because of the money they would make with the turbines located on their land."

Hartke said his son wasn't opposed to landowners making money leasing land for wind turbines. "When they started the wind turbines in 2013 Ted knew it was the biggest mistake he ever made in his life because of the noise.

"But in January when it was started up the noise that emanated in his house was terrible and they couldn't get any sleep," Hartke said. "He called me and said, 'I think this is the biggest

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Turbines

continued from page 1

mistake I ever made in my life. I didn't join the opposition groups against wind turbines and now we can't sleep in our house."

Hartke said his nine year old grandson son was the first to get sick. The estimated cost to noise proof the house was about \$80,000.

The only way to keep out the noise the son was told would be a ten foot thick concrete wall below ground. "Some of his neighbors do live in their basements and put mattress against their walls so they can stay in their house," Hartke said.

The sheriff's office was contacted. The noise level was 58 decibels in Ted's bedroom. Hartke said his son was told by deputies they would help him file a complaint against the wind turbine company.

Monday morning came, Tuesday morning came and on Wednesday morning the sheriff called and said they would not help file a complaint. The county board had decided they would not participate in the filling of any complaints.

If Hartke's son wanted to complain about the wind turbines he would have file a com-

plaint with the Environmental Protection Agency.

"He hasn't gotten through all the steps yet," Hartke commented. "The noise isn't every night. It is only at the times when the turbines are turning enough to generate electricity."

Two of the turbines within five miles of Hartke's son's home have had massive blade failures. "Blade failures have launched debris fragments up to 1,500 feet. There is real danger when the turbines are operating."

"The turbine industry will tell you they can bring jobs, employment and tax base. They talk about fixing roads and culverts and they do. But, the offshoot is that it is dusty and noisy. Yes, in a few months that goes away, but, they don't take the noise from the turbines with them.

Hartke's family has moved into the city to get away from the noise.

Greenwich Neighbors United are very concerned about wind turbine development in their community. A proposal is pending before the Ohio Siting Board which would allow up to 25 wind turbines to be erected in Greenwich Township (Docket # 13-0990-EL-BGN).

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Case No(s). 13-0990-EL-BGN

Summary: Public Comment of Mr. Kevin Ledet electronically filed by Mr. Matt Butler on behalf of Staff of OPSB