

BEFORE THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD

In the Matter of the Application of)	
Paulding Wind Farm III LLC for a)	
Certificate of Environmental)	Case No. 15-1737-EL-BTX
Compatibility and Public Need for the)	
Timber Road III Transmission Line)	
)	

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF ERIN BOWSER

Q.1. Please state your name, title and business address.

A.1. My name is Erin Bowser. I am the Director of Project Management for EDP Renewables North America ("EDPR NA"), which is the parent company of Applicant, Paulding Wind Farm III LLC. My business address is 155 East Market Street, Suite 307, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

Q.2. What are your duties as Director of Project Management?

A.2. As Director of Project Management I am responsible for wind farm development activities for several projects in Ohio and throughout the Eastern Region of the United States. My responsibilities include establishing and managing relationships with elected officials, regulators, and community opinion leaders to support project development; identifying prospective projects with suitable wind resources and electric transmission access; developing and managing project budgets and schedule; managing environmental study and permitting processes, managing third party consultants; and supporting financial analysis and modeling of the project economics, among other duties. I have also represented EDPR NA in various public hearings.

Q.3. What is your educational and professional background?

A.3. I graduated from Clarion University with a BA in History and Political Science in 1997 and from Ohio University in 1998 where I obtained a Masters Degree in Political Science. From 1998 - 2008 I worked for various non-profit public policy advocacy organizations including Environment Ohio where I was the Executive Director from 2003 - 2008. I started as a Project Manager for EDPR NA (then known as Horizon Wind Energy) in 2008 and was promoted to Project Management Director in 2011.

Q.4. On whose behalf are you offering testimony?

A.4. I am testifying on behalf of the Applicant, Paulding Wind Farm III LLC.

Q.5. What is the purpose of your testimony?

A.5. The purpose of my testimony is threefold. First, I will summarize the major items in the December 8, 2015 Application in Case No. 15-1737-EL-BTX regarding the Timber Road III Transmission Line and sponsor its admission into evidence, along with the exhibits and proofs of publication. Second, I will present certain minor modifications to the project design presented in the application. Finally, I will sponsor and discuss the Stipulation and Recommendation filing in this proceeding.

Q.6. Please provide a summary and overview of the proposed Timber Road III Transmission Line.

A.6. Paulding Wind Farm III LLC ("the Applicant") is proposing to construct a 138 kilovolt(kV) transmission line (Timber Road III Transmission Line) which will be used to deliver power generated by the Timber Road I Wind Farm and Timber Road III Wind Farm to the regional power grid. The Timber Road III Transmission Line will run south, traversing approximately 8.5 miles in Paulding County, Ohio, from the collection

substation to the existing 138 kV Lincoln – Sterling circuit where the Timber Road III Point of Interconnect (POI) Switchyard will be constructed. The POI Switchyard was permitted utilizing the LON permit process. It was originally included in the Timber Road III Transmission Line Application however we determined after submission of the application that the LON permit process offered the ability to attain more expeditious approval that supported the POI Switchyard construction schedule. Once approval was attained for the POI Switchyard, the POI Switchyard was removed from the Timber Road III Transmission Line Application.

Q.7. What is the general purpose of the Facility?

A.7. The primary purpose of the Timber Road III Transmission Line is to deliver electricity generated by the Timber Road I Wind Farm and the Timber Road III from the collection substation for the Timber Road III Wind Farm to the Timber Road III POI Switchyard, which the Board approved on March 22, 2016 in Case No. 16-353-EL-BLN. The POI Switchyard will make the interconnection to the AEP 138 kV Lincoln – Sterling circuit.

Q.8. Why is a transmission line needed?

A.8. The Timber Road III Transmission Line is needed because, subject to the Board's approval of the amendments in Case Nos. 2030-EL-BGA and 2031-EL-BGA, the Timber Road I Wind Farm and the Timber Road III Wind Farm will share a single collection substation, as opposed to each project having its own collection substation as originally certificated. Under the original certificates issued for the Timber Road I Wind Farm (Case No. 09-980-EL-BGN) and the Timber Road III Wind Farm (Case No. 10-369-EL-BGN, amended in Case No. 10-3128-EL-BGA), the energy generated from the

wind farms would route 8 miles underground from the center of the project area to the original point of interconnection, and step up to 138 kV at that location. This alternative would require four circuits to be buried underground the length of the route at considerably more cost and local impact than the proposed transmission line. EDPR NA staff consulted with landowners about the underground option and received significant support for the above ground alternative, in part due to the amount of drainage tile that would be damaged by the underground route. The cost increase of constructing four underground circuits would also push up the electricity buyer's price up to a point that would jeopardize the viability of the project. A final point is that due to the smaller conductor sizing and thermal losses of the underground circuits, the proposed transmission line is much more efficient from an electrical losses standpoint.

Q.9. Please provide a brief description of the proposed design for the Timber Road III Transmission Line.

A.9. The Timber Road III Transmission Line will be designed and operated at 138 kV. Structures for the proposed Timber Road III Transmission Line are consistent with industry standards. The primary transmission route traverses approximately 8.5 miles of land in Harrison and Benton Townships, Paulding County, and will be installed within a 150 foot wide right-of-way, comprised of private land secured under easement, and will extend on average 75 feet from the center line of the transmission line along each side. To minimize potential clearing impacts to forestland, the primary transmission route is located almost entirely within open agricultural land, with the exception of one riparian crossing. All of the structures for the proposed Timber Road III Transmission Line will utilize a single-pole design, which minimizes the amount of soil disturbance as compared

to double-pole, H-frame designs, and is consistent with industry standards.

Approximately 90 structures are proposed along the 8.5 mile primary route, which equates to an average spacing of approximately 515 feet between structures.

Q.10. Why was the primary transmission route selected over the alternate route?

A.10. EDPR considered several alternatives before determining that the primary transmission route was the most viable option to connect the energy from the Timber Road I Wind Farm and the Timber Road III Wind Farm. The primary transmission route provides social, environmental, and engineering benefits over the alternate route.

Notably, the primary transmission route is a shorter more direct route, traversing approximately 8.5 miles of land comprised of 27 separate parcels compared to the alternate route being approximately 11.6 miles long and comprising 41 separate parcels, which equates to less land disturbance. In addition, the primary route is sited on parcels owned by landowners willing to participate in the project, and on parcels that primarily are flat, dominated by agricultural use, have existing access through established farm lanes and roads, and have essentially no environmental constraints.

Q.11. Is the December 8, 2015 application including all appendices and exhibits true and accurate to the best of your knowledge?

A.11. Yes, subject to the revisions discussed today in my direct testimony, the supplement to the Application filed on February 5, 2016 (a true and accurate copy of which has been marked as Company Exhibit 1), and to the supplemental information filed by Applicant on March 29, 2016 (a true and accurate copy of which has been marked as Company Exhibit 2).

Q.12. Has Paulding Wind Farm III LLC made any changes to the project design since the filing of the December 8, 2015 application?

A.12. Yes. As noted above, Paulding Wind Farm III LLC filed a supplement to the application on February 5, 2016, regarding minor changes to the alignment of the primary route of the transmission line, resulting in reduction in the length of the primary route from approximately 8.6 miles to approximately 8.5 miles, and an overall reduction in land use and cultural impacts. The current configuration of the primary transmission route is within the 1,000 foot study area presented within the original application. No changes were made to the alternate transmission route. Applicant sent copies of the application and the supplement to all parties in this proceeding and to the public officials and public libraries in Paulding County on February 8, 2016. In addition, Applicant filed supplemental information on March 29, 2016 withdrawing the POI Switchyard from the original application. The POI Switchyard will now be constructed under a separate application, which was approved by the Board on March 22, 2016 in Case No. 16-353-EL-BLN.

Q.13. Did Paulding Wind Farm III LLC have notices of the Application and the Public and Adjudicatory Hearings published in a newspaper of general circulation in Paulding County?

A.13. Yes. Initial notices of the application and the hearings were published on March 4, 2016 in *The Crescent-News* and on March 9, 2016 in the *Paulding Progress*, both of which are newspapers of general circulation in Paulding County. A second notice of the application and the hearings was published on April 6, 2016 in the *Paulding Progress*.

True and accurate copies of the notices and related affidavits of publication have been marked as Company Exhibit 3.

Q.14. Did Paulding Wind Farm III LLC file and serve a copy of the letter sent to property owners and tenants within the plan site or contiguous to the plan site?

A.14. Yes. On April 13, 2016, Applicant filed a copy of the letter sent to property owners, as well as a copy of the mailing list of all affected property owners to whom letters were sent. A copy of that filing, which includes the proof of publication of the second notice, has been marked as Company Exhibit 4. A copy of the letter sent to property owners and the mailing list was also submitted to the public officials and libraries that were served with copies of the application.

Q.15. Will the Applicant be sponsoring witnesses to support the Application in addition to your testimony?

A.15. Yes. Benjamin Brazel, the Director of Environmental Services for Environmental Design & Research, Landscape Architecture, Engineering, & Environmental Services, D.P.C (“EDR”), will testify about the studies completed in connection with the application and address any environmental impacts related to the project.

Q.16. Based on your experience in the industry, do you believe that property values will be negatively impacted in the Timber Road III Transmission Line is constructed and operated?

A.16. No. Based on my experience in the industry, I do not believe that overall property values in the area will be negatively impacted by the construction and operation of the Timber Road III Transmission Line.

Q.17. Directing your attention to Joint Exhibit No. 1, is this the Joint Stipulation and Recommendation that was signed by Staff, the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation and the Applicant and docketed on April 26, 2016?

A.17. Yes.

Q.18. Have you reviewed the Joint Stipulation and Recommendation?

A.18. Yes.

Q.19. Does the Joint Stipulation and Recommendation represent a product of serious bargaining among capable, knowledgeable parties in your view?

A.19. Yes. The parties in this proceeding engaged in settlement negotiations through an open process. For example, the Applicant requested revisions to certain Staff recommended conditions, and some but not all of the revisions were incorporated into the Joint Stipulation and Recommendation.

Q.20. Does the Joint Stipulation and Recommendation benefit the public interest?

A.20. Yes. When completed, and in conjunction with the Timber Road I Wind Farm and the Timber Road III Wind Farm, the transmission line project will contribute renewable wind energy to the PJM transmission grid. In addition, the project will benefit the local economy through the addition of new jobs and payroll and tax revenue.

Q.21. Does the Joint Stipulation and Recommendation violate any important regulatory principle or practice in your view?

A.21. No.

Q.22. What do you recommend that the Ohio Power Siting Board do in this case?

A.22. I recommend that the Ohio Power Siting Board grant the application as modified by the Applicant's supplemental filings and adopt and approve the Joint Stipulation and Recommendation.

Q.23. Does this conclude your direct testimony?

A.23. Yes, it does.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The Ohio Power Siting Board's e-filing system will electronically serve notice of the filing of this document on the parties referenced in the service list of the docket card who have electronically subscribed to this case. In addition, the undersigned certifies that a courtesy copy of the foregoing document is also being served upon the persons below via electronic mail this 26th day of April 2016.

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Summary: Testimony Direct testimony of Erin Bowser electronically filed by Mr. Ryan D. Elliott on behalf of Paulding Wind Farm III LLC