

public comment 18-0488-EL-BGN

Oppose Seneca Wind, LLC

I continue to learn more about these planned industrial wind projects for our Seneca County. A lot of discussion has involved setbacks. Ohio regulation currently designates a setback as the distance between the turbine and the property line. I find it very peculiar that the wind company is working hard to lobby Ohio legislative representatives to change these setbacks to be measured from the turbine to residential structures (i.e. homes). The wind industry continues to “claim” that current Ohio setbacks are too restrictive and they are now asking that turbines be moved even closer to those who are not participating in a project as a wind-lease holder. All the while, Ohio’s neighboring states continue to require that the wind industry place turbines further from properties. One reason neighboring states have made the setbacks further is they continue to learn the impacts these massive machines have on those that live near them. Ask what is a “safe distance” from a turbine and you will find a variety of responses. My background in is engineering and safety is a critical aspect in any workplace. It is interesting that in Ohio the “safe distance” required for the employees to service these machines is considered “propriety information” and therefore protected and cannot be revealed. Meanwhile, Ohio’s neighboring states require that this information be revealed by the wind industry. Luckily, there are people who have figured this information out with some math and physics and to no surprise the “safe distance” the wind industry uses for its employees is further than current Ohio minimum setback distances. The current argument should not be to shorten setbacks, but instead to lengthen them. I am beginning to seriously question why our state and local elected officials would think that it is ok for the wind industry to protect its employees with “safe distances” but not protect the people they were elected to represent. It is for these reasons I ask that full disclosure be required of the wind industry. Considering that current minimum setback distances are arguably not appropriate for the proposed turbines in the Republic Wind, LLC and Seneca Wind, LLC I ask that these projects terminated.

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