

Public comment 16-1871

From: Ed Weston [<mailto:ed.g.weston@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 24, 2018 5:02 PM
To: Puco ContactOPSB <contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov>
Subject: Support for Project Icebreaker in Lake Erie

To whom it may concern:

I am a long-term resident of Chagrin Falls, and for the past eleven years I have actively followed the progress of the Lake Erie wind farm project. I was out of town last week, so I missed out on the opportunity to speak before your hearing. This note is submitted instead.

In short, the LEEDCO proposal is right for lots of reasons:

- Ohio needs more and different sources of energy in its future

- This project brings new funding and investment to the state

- It provides a real opportunity for NE Ohio to become the Houston of a new offshore industry--windpower in the Great Lakes. Both manufacturing and service jobs await.

- The environmental impact has been studied at length--and overall it seems as benign as any energy project imaginable.

- The work, as I understand it, is nearly shovel-ready.

Bottom line, this region needs a boost. Project Icebreaker (16-1871-EL-BGN) is the culmination of over a decade of research and investment, and it's time has come. It's my hope that you will agree.

Thank you.

Edward G Weston
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-----Original Message-----

From: pschmidt_pcsi@yahoo.com [<mailto:webmaster@puc.state.oh.us>]

Sent: Wednesday, July 25, 2018 11:42 PM

To: Puco ContactOPSB <contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov>

Subject: OPSB-ContactUs

Submitted: Jul 25, 2018 11:42 PM

RENDER: server

RESPONSECHART: 0

CONTACT_REASON: Comment,

TITLE: Mr.

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COUNTY: Ashtabula

COUNTRY: USA

COMPANY_NAME: Schmidt Equipment Inc

CASE_NUMBER: 16-1871-EL-BGN

COMMENTS: > I attended the 7/19 meeting in Cleveland but was scheduled as speaker #47 so gave up and left after 8:30PM.

> I strongly support this project. I am a registered Ohio P.E.; also have a steel fabricating business, and a patent on a new type of wind turbine support tower that may prove beneficial in offshore applications. I also own a small recreational boat and have four bird feeders on my property in Geneva Ohio (I do care about birds and love seeing and hearing them). The reasons I support this project are as follow:

1. Environmental benefit -- Wind energy is carbon-free as to fuel and many people and scientists are urging our nation to minimize carbon emissions. Wind energy does this! Also, there are no significant negative environmental impacts of this project. Consider the following:

a) The turbines are approx 5 miles from shore, so no noise or flicker problems -- and for every person who thinks the turbines will destroy the lake view there are probably two or more that will find it interesting (I've never heard anyone say the Holland "windmills" destroy the beauty of that countryside). Furthermore, the turbines can be a destination trip for a boater (I plan to take boat trips out to see them and show to my friends)

b) The concern as to disrupting sediment and bottom material is unjustified because the installation of the suction bucket foundations only takes a few days per turbine so the event is very localized and of extremely short duration; the "sludge" is only a relatively thin layer on top of otherwise clean sand or clay; and the design of the foundation results in much of the disturbed material being confined within the foundation. There is much more than sufficient time for any disturbed materials to settle back down to the bottom again and leave the water as clean as it was before the installation.

c) The number of bats or birds that might be killed by the blades of these turbines is insignificant when compared to the total number in existence. One woman testified while I was still present at the

meeting that there are "thousands and thousands" of birds flying over the Lake, and that a group of "birders" found in one day the bodies of more than 250 birds that died because they flew into buildings in the city of Cleveland. Let's get realistic as to birds being killed by turbine blades! Bats are abundant (except probably not many are flying over the Lake 5 miles from shore, and more are likely to be killed by upset homeowners when bats get into their house than will be killed by the turbine blades). Therefore, the only legitimate concern relates to eagles -- and they are becoming relatively common so if one or two are killed it won't truly have a serious impact.

d) I consider it absolutely shameful that these turbines will initially have to be shut down from dusk to dawn for 10 months a year to protect a few birds, bats, etc. This reduces the amount of power generated by roughly 40%. How ridiculous!

2.) Economic benefits

a) Erecting, operating and maintaining these turbines will create a lot of work for skilled trades workers, especially if the turbines prove cost-effective enough to justify a large number of additional units. Electric cars and trains are likely to become widely-used, and they take electric power, so if these turbines eventually become cost-effective many will be needed and a new industry will result.

b) And these turbines will likely prove cost-effective. Wind energy power costs have been dropping steadily for many years. Since the cost of the fuel (wind) for these turbines will remain zero through their 20 or more year life-time, they might very well be producing power 10 years from now at a much cheaper cost than power generated using natural gas, nuclear or coal.

3. Safety benefits for boaters -- These turbines can be constructed so they can be a place of safety for a boater in distress (if Homeland Security doesn't lose their ability to realistically separate inconsequential threats from serious ones). As a recreational boat owner I think this is a significant benefit.

4. Benefits to the Image of Cleveland

a) This project is an excellent example of the spirit behind the words in the mural on the wall of the Cleveland City Council meeting room in which this meeting was held on 7/19/18. The mural extols the fact that Cleveland's people worked hard, pursued new and innovative ideas and as a result achieved pre-eminence in the areas of commerce, industry and culture. These turbines are an outstanding example of the kind of innovative thinking that can culminate in Cleveland being recognized for having taken the lead role in the implementation of a new culture of utilizing renewable energy. We should be eager to see this project succeed and see Cleveland become a world leader in fresh water offshore wind energy technology!

b) And instead of attacking and being jealous of Fred Olson, we should be thanking him for his willingness to support this project by investing in it, and thereby making it possible!

5. Summary and final comments:

a) I consider all of the complaints that I heard at this meeting that were put forth by opponents of this project to be without merit and it should be given the go-ahead without further delay.

b) Furthermore, I encourage all of you who are Board members to seriously consider how EXTREMELY RESTRICTIVE AND UNREASONABLE today's environmental regulations are, and how they add such huge amounts of cost to projects such as this. Our nation needs this money for other important things! These extreme regulations typically result in almost every major construction or infrastructure project that's proposed being excessively delayed or cancelled, and many times these are projects that would have greatly benefited the public.

c) I am convinced that if our country were, today, to undertake the construction from scratch of our existing Interstate highway system the currently in-place extremely restrictive environmental regulations would make it impossible for us to build it. It would never get done -- and what a shame that would be.

6. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to submit this statement!

From: S H [<mailto:sanhoover@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, July 26, 2018 11:33 AM
To: Puco ContactOPSB <contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov>
Subject: LEEDCo's Icebreaker project

July 26, 2019

Asim Z. Haque, Chairman
The Ohio Power Siting Board
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Haque:

I am writing to express opposition to LEEDCo's Icebreaker project to construct an "experimental" wind energy facility in the Central Basin of Lake Erie, offshore Cleveland, with the expressed goal and apparent public, political, and commercial expectation of an additional build-out of upwards of 1,500 turbines.

The coastal areas and open waters of Lake Erie are well documented as a major migration corridor and stopover habitat for millions of migratory birds in spring and fall, including Endangered and Threatened species such as Kirtland's Warbler (federally endangered), Piping Plover (federally endangered), and Common Tern (state endangered).

The shoreline habitat along Lake Erie serves as a crucial connecting point between avian wintering and breeding grounds. In addition, the open waters of Lake Erie are crucial habitat for millions of water birds such as ducks, loons, and gulls that utilize the area for resting and feeding during migration and in winter. These shores and waters are such an important confluence for birds that the entire Central Basin of Lake Erie is designated as a Globally Important Bird Area (GIBA).

I support the position of Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO)—an Ohio-based organization with more than 30 years of migratory bird monitoring knowledge and expertise—that the pre-construction studies did a very poor job of assessing the potential impacts to birds. I also support BSBO's request that the OPSB revise the Staff Report to address the concerns the Observatory raised about that document.

A known threat to birds and bats, any wind energy development should be held to the highest level of scrutiny and the most rigorous scientific methodology. And with weak pre-construction studies--and no feasible method of studying post-construction mortality over open water--Icebreaker should not be approved.

While I do support the need to develop renewable energy solutions as a means to address climate change, a Globally Important Bird Area is not the place for wind energy development. I implore the Ohio Power Siting Board to be on the right side of history, and set a precedent for respecting and protecting our most bird sensitive areas and the tremendous asset birds and birding represent for Ohio.

Sandra Hoover
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Lakewood OH 44107

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

7/26/2018 12:17:27 PM

in

Case No(s). 16-1871-EL-BGN

Summary: Public Comment electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing.