

Public comment 18-1578-EL-BGN

Dear OPSB Board Members:

We oppose the development of a solar project on good productive agricultural land. This is not a wise use of our natural resources. The sun shines the same on non-productive land as it does on good productive land.

However, if this project does proceed, we are concerned about existing tile drainage. Our farm land (and farm land of other property owners) has tile which drains into the proposed facility and also has tile which receives drainage from the proposed facility. We have discussed this with Mr. Doug Herling of Open Road Renewables. Mr. Herling states they will attempt to find existing tile and not drive posts through the tile. With all due respect, we do not think Mr. Herling understands the magnitude of the problem. Some of this tile was installed 80 to 100 years ago and few maps exist.

Driving a post through tile in all probability will not be obvious at the time and will create one of two problems. One problem would be causing water to back up or flow on the surface of adjoining land owners resulting in drowning of crops. The second problem would cause sink holes to develop resulting in siltation of drainage ditches at tile outlets. What assurance do we have for receiving payment for lost crops or participation of payment for ditch cleanout?

One of the factors Open Road Renewables considers for a solar project is dry land (avoiding wetlands). Prior to the arrival of the European settlers, some of the soil in this area was poorly drained and required tile drainage to be productive. If the existing tile system is not maintained (and it does require maintenance), the result will be the development of swampy areas making maintenance and mowing difficult. We do not think Open Road Renewables understands the magnitude of maintaining the existing tile system considering the number of posts driven in the ground.

Your comments would be appreciated and we are willing to answer any questions.

Very truly yours,

Donn E. Kolb  
Jo Ann W. Kolb  
Eaton, Ohio

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