

**From:** [Ohio Power Siting Board](#)  
**To:** [Puco Docketing](#)  
**Subject:** public comment 18-1578 and 18-1579 [ ref:\_00DtOGzXt.\_500t0FLIAS:ref ]  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 19, 2019 2:45:03 PM

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February 19, 2019

Dear Ohio Power Siting Board Members:

My name is Karen Hamilton and I live in Preble County and near the Alamo project. My husband and I understand the need for Ohio and neighboring states to find alternate sources of electricity due to the number of coal generated electricity power plants retiring. However, after much thought, the construction of solar facilities on prime agriculture land poses many potential problems and risks. Construction requires clearing and grading, which results in soil compaction, potential changes of drainage channels, and increased runoff and erosion. I can confirm our concerns through the Solar Energy Development Environmental Considerations prepared by the US Department of Energy, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Program and the US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management.

Another area of concern, farmland is far too important for our future to allow it to become a solar farm. Experts say that by 2050 we'll have to feed two billion more people, an estimated nine billion people total (There Won't Be Enough Food To Feed The World In 2050, 2013). A recent study found that crop yields have NOT been rising at a sufficient pace to meet this projected demand of nine billion people by 2050. There will be a large demand for food, with little supply. Taking up farmland for solar power will only progress this problem. Farmland in Ohio and around the world needs to be valued and put to better use than for solar farms. Recently, the Oregon Land Conservation and Development Commission put a value on their farmland. The commission voted to adopt statewide rules to no longer allow the construction of solar power plants on soils that are determined as Class 1, Class 2, prime or unique soils unless a solar developer can determine a dual use. We must follow in Oregon's footsteps and regulate the construction of solar farms in rural communities. We must value our agricultural land.

In addition, OPSB Case Record 18-1578-EL-BGN and OPSB Case Record 18-1579-EL-BGN are Open Roads Renewables potential solar generated electric facilities located in Preble County. In the applications filed with OPSB, these 2 solar facilities will take up approximately 1746 acres of prime agriculture land currently used for corn, soybeans, wheat, etc. That is alarming that in Preble County alone, that amount of farm ground will possibly be turned into a solar facility. That is not all, these projects will be approximately 6 air miles from each other and would surround part of the Lake Lakengren Community, of approximately 3300 people within that gated community. The proposed Alamo project (OPSB 18-1578) will also border the 1200 wooded acres of Woodland Trails Scout Reservation.

Lastly, our other concern with the Alamo project is that no one with Open Roads Renewable took the time to reach out to my husband and me about this project coming into our neighborhood. We recently found out from our neighbor, Mr. Brubaker, that Open Roads had reached out to him about this project. His land surrounds our property on three sides. We at least should have been notified by mail or contacted directly about the proposed project instead of finding out on our own.

I respectfully ask that the OPSB deny the certificates for OBSB Case #18-1578-EL-BGN and OPSB Case #18-1579-EL-BGN


Regards,

Karen Hamilton  
Eaton, Ohio

#### References

Solar Energy Development Environmental Considerations (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://solareis.anl.gov/guide/environment/>

Poehler, B. (2019, January 26). Oregon adopts strict rules for solar panel farms on high-value Farm soil. Retrieved from <https://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/news/local/stayton/2019/01/25/oregon-solar-farms-new-rules-high-value-farmland/2609838002/>

World May Not Have Enough Food by 2050: Report. Retrieved from <https://www.cnbc.com/2014/10/15/world-may-not-have-enough-food-to-eat-by-2050-report.html> 

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**Date:** Tuesday, February 19, 2019 2:50:40 PM

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February 15, 2019

Dear Ohio Power Siting Board Members:

My name is Karen Hamilton. My family and I live in Preble County. We understand the need for Ohio and neighboring states to find alternate sources of electricity due to the number of coal generated electricity power plants retiring. However, after much thought, the construction of solar facilities on prime agriculture land poses many potential problems and risks. Construction requires clearing and grading, which results in soil compaction, potential changes of drainage channels, and increased runoff and erosion. I can confirm our concerns through the Solar Energy Development Environmental Considerations prepared by the US Department of Energy, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Program and the US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management.

Another area of concern, farmland is far too important for our future to allow it to become a solar farm. Experts say that by 2050 we'll have to feed two billion more people, an estimated nine billion people total (There Won't Be Enough Food To Feed The World In 2050, 2013). A recent study found that crop yields have NOT been rising at a sufficient pace to meet this projected demand of nine billion people by 2050. There will be a large demand for food, with little supply. Taking up farmland for solar power will only progress this problem. Farmland in Ohio and around the world needs to be valued and put to better use than for solar farms. Recently, the Oregon Land Conservation and Development Commission put a value on their farmland. The commission voted to adopt statewide rules to no longer allow the construction of solar power plants on soils that are determined as Class 1, Class 2, prime or unique soils unless a solar developer can determine a dual use. We must follow in Oregon's footsteps and regulate the construction of solar farms in rural communities. We must value our agricultural land.

In addition, OPSB Case Record 18-1579-EL-BGN and OPSB Case Record 18-1578-EL-BGN are Open Roads Renewables potential solar generated electric facilities located in Preble County. In the applications filed with OPSB, these 2 solar facilities will take up approximately 1746 acres of prime agriculture land currently used for corn, soybeans, wheat, etc. This information is alarming because in Preble County alone, the large amount of farm ground will possibly be turned into a solar facility. That is not all, these projects will be approximately 6 air miles from each other and would surround part of the Lake Lakengren Community, of approximately 3300 people within that gated community. The proposed Angelina project (OPSB 18-1579) will reside close to Hueston Woods State Park, the 3000 acres of wooded and wild animal populated area which includes a 625 - acre lake. Can we be certain that the habitat in this area will not be disturb because of such a large solar electric generating facility? I don't think so.

I respectfully ask that the OPSB deny the certificates for OBSB Case #18-1579-EL-BGN and OPSB Case #18-1578-EL-BGN.


Regards,

Karen Hamilton  
Eaton, Ohio

#### References

Solar Energy Development Environmental Considerations (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://solareis.anl.gov/guide/environment/>

Poehler, B. (2019, January 26). Oregon adopts strict rules for solar panel farms on high-value Farm soil. Retrieved from <https://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/news/local/stayton/2019/01/25/oregon-solar-farms-new-rules-high-value-farmland/2609838002/>

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Summary: Public Comment (2) received via website electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing.