

From: [Ohio Power Siting Board](#)
To: [Puco Docketing](#)
Subject: public comment 18-1546-EL-BGN [ref:_00Dt0GzXt._500t0FNSPn:ref]
Date: Friday, March 8, 2019 1:54:52 PM
Attachments: [Public Comment 01 .pdf.html](#)

Dear OPSB,

Please find attached my comments regarding the proposed site of Nestlewood Solar I LLC.

Sincerely,

Roland Franke



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Roland Franke

2211 Oak Corner Road
Hamersville, OH 45130

March 5, 2019

Ohio Power Siting Board
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215-3793

RE: 18-1546-EL-BGN Nestlewood Solar Facility

Dear Sir or Madam,

Nestlewood Solar I LLC seeks Board approval of an 80 megawatt solar electric generating facility located in Clark Township, Brown County and Tate Township, Clermont County, approximately 3 miles west of Hamersville, Ohio.

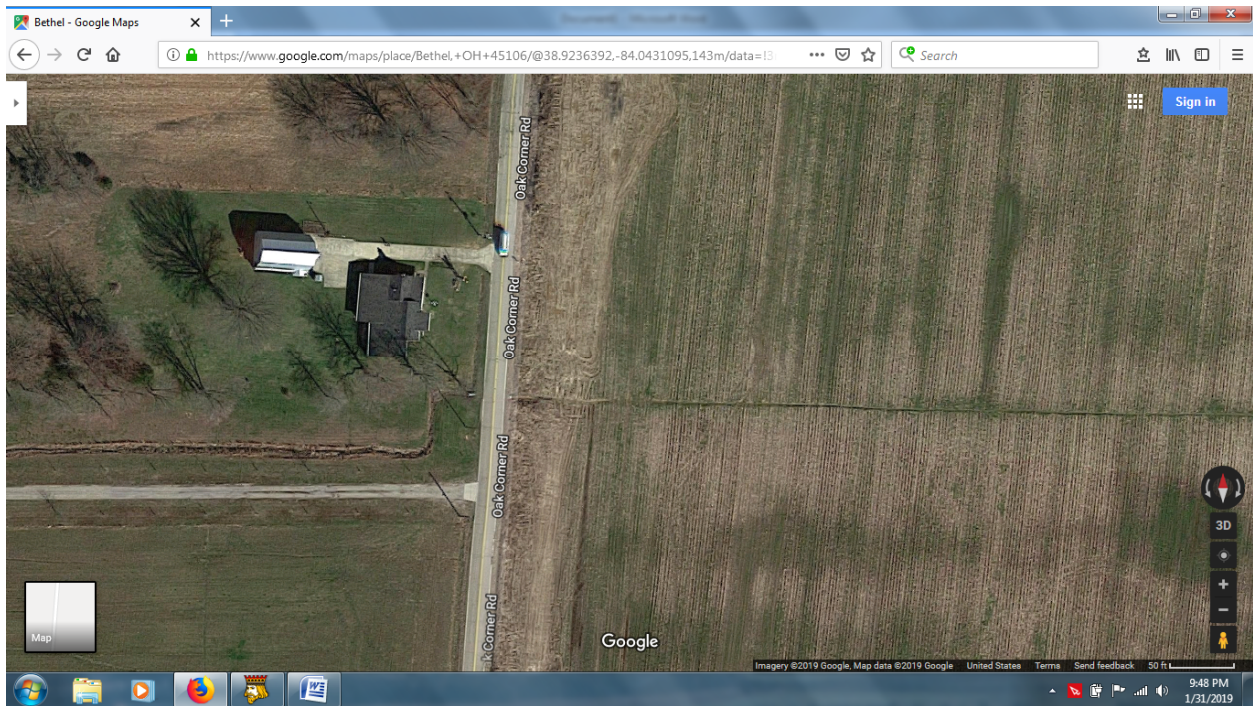
As a landowner with residence adjacent to the proposed site I have some areas of concern regarding this project.

1. Storm water drainage off the proposed site
2. Toxicity of solar panels
3. Location of access gravel road to proposed site
4. Wildlife habitat
5. Property value

1. Storm water drainage off the proposed site

The major portion of the proposed site lies east of Oak Corner Road. Rain water collects on the proposed site and then drains through a culvert under Oak Corner Road 2200 block to a rain water channel running to the west. This culvert was replaced in 2018 by the Clermont County Engineers from a metal pipe to a concrete pipe, believed to be to accommodate future larger amounts of storm water runoff.

Below is the Google Birdseye view of the proposed site south of Vandament Road and east of Oak Corner Road. In the middle of the right half of the picture a major ditch can be seen. Rain water from the north and south of this ditch drains into this ditch and then runs off to the culvert under Oak Corner Road and then through a rain water channel to the west.



Looking from Oak Corner Road to the east, the picture below shows recently, after a few hours of rain, water flowing from the proposed site. Rain water drains from the north and south into the earlier mentioned ditch, in the middle of the picture, and from there to the Oak Corner Road culvert.



Picture below: Looking from Oak Corner Road to the west-south-west, water then exits the culvert and drains through a rain water channel to the west.



Picture below: Looking from Oak Corner Road to the west, it can be seen that the rain water channel to the west is at its capacity, partly already overflowing. This rain water channel runs further to the west, crosses the author's driveway and passes by his residence and septic mound.



In all these years that the author lives here, the proposed site has been farmed with either corn or soybeans. Starting in 2018, the proposed site became wasteland with no farm crops. This is also when we experienced larger amounts of storm water coming from the proposed site draining off to the west of Oak Corner Road. With no or little vegetation on the proposed site, the soil is easily saturated and the water just runs off. This phenomenon will be even more pronounced with solar panels installed. Rain water will not wet the whole area evenly anymore, instead rain water will run off the solar panels, accumulates and drains towards the major ditch and then to the culvert. With existing climate change more severe weather can be expected, heavier than usual downpours of rain, and the existing culvert and especially the rain water channel to the west will not be able to handle these amounts of water. There is danger that the neighbors septic leach field will be flooded and further to the west, the author's septic mount.

Below is a picture of a solar farm presented by Nestlewood Solar I LLC at the Public Informational Meeting November 7, 2018. As can be seen, solar farms have no or little ground cover vegetation and rain water will just run off as described above.



It is therefore requested that, if granted approval, Nestlewood Solar I LLC be ordered to construct on site a storm water reservoir that collects the rain water runoff and discharges it in a controlled manner.

Storm water reservoirs are common in this area and can be found where developments have disturbed the natural drainage of rain water. Below are a few examples of storm water reservoirs.

Below: Storm water reservoir at Walmart, Amelia



Below: Storm water reservoir at Kroger, Amelia



Below: Storm water reservoir at Siena Gardens at Union Township



2. Toxicity of solar panels

It is known that solar panels contain toxic substances like lead and cadmium. As long as the panels are intact they seem not to impose any danger. But as soon as the solar panels are damaged, broken, due to severe weather like tornados and high winds, these toxic pollutants, lead and carcinogenic cadmium, can be almost completely washed out by rainwater of the fragments of solar modules and accumulate in the soil of the proposed site, drain off to the west and rendering the land useless for future farming.

Below picture: Solar farm in Puerto Rico damaged by 2017 hurricane



The same or similar damage can occur due to tornados or high winds in the area of the proposed site.

Tornados and high winds have occurred in this area in recent history. Following are some of them listed (source is the National Weather Service):

August 17, 2016	Tornado in Sardinia, Ohio
March 1, 2017	Tornado near Amelia, Ohio
March 1, 2017	Straight-Line, 70 – 80 mph Winds in Clermont and Brown counties in Ohio
March 26, 2017	Tornado near Williamsburg, Ohio
February 25, 2018	Tornado West of Felicity, Ohio
February 25, 2018	Tornado Northeast of Hamersville, Ohio
May 21, 2018	Tornado near Mount Orab, Ohio

It seems that these severe weather conditions have increased in recent years and can be expected to occur in increased numbers and intensity in the future.

It is therefore requested that, if granted approval, Nestlewood Solar I LLC be ordered to construct the solar farm in a manner to withstand tornados and high winds which are common in this area.

3. Location of access gravel road to proposed site

In one of the pictures presented by Nestlewood Solar I LLC at the Public Informational Meeting November 7, 2018 of the proposed site, an access gravel road is shown from Oak Corner Road to the east. This gravel access road seems to be just opposite to the author's driveway. The author's mail box is located on the east side of Oak Corner Road, the side towards the proposed site.

It is therefore requested that, if granted approval, Nestlewood Solar I LLC be ordered not to construct their gravel access road opposite to author's driveway.

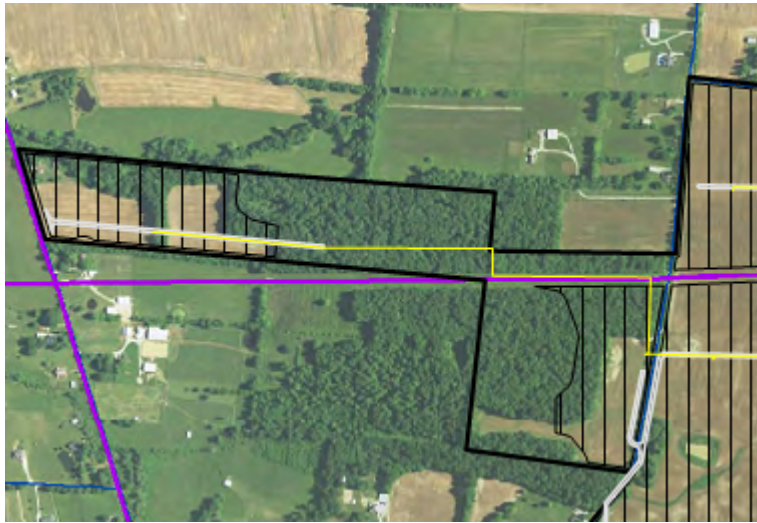
4. Wildlife habitat

The wooded area of the proposed site between Oak Corner Road and Bethel Maple Road is habitat for wildlife, white tail deer and turkey and others. (see picture below) Deer and turkey raise their off springs in this area. The author has counted at one time over hundred (100) turkeys and recently a flock of over forty (40) that stay in this area. Deer population varies between four (4) and up to twenty (20) and more. A seven (7) foot fence around this wooded area would be an insurmountable obstacle for wildlife to get access to this wooded area.



Also, the major part of the proposed site between Oak Corner Road and Bethel Maple Road has standing tall trees. It makes no sense whatsoever to install just a few solar panels in the remaining cleared area. The contributing effect to the rest of the proposed solar farm is minimal and these solar panels will be partly shaded by the trees which diminishes their effect even further.

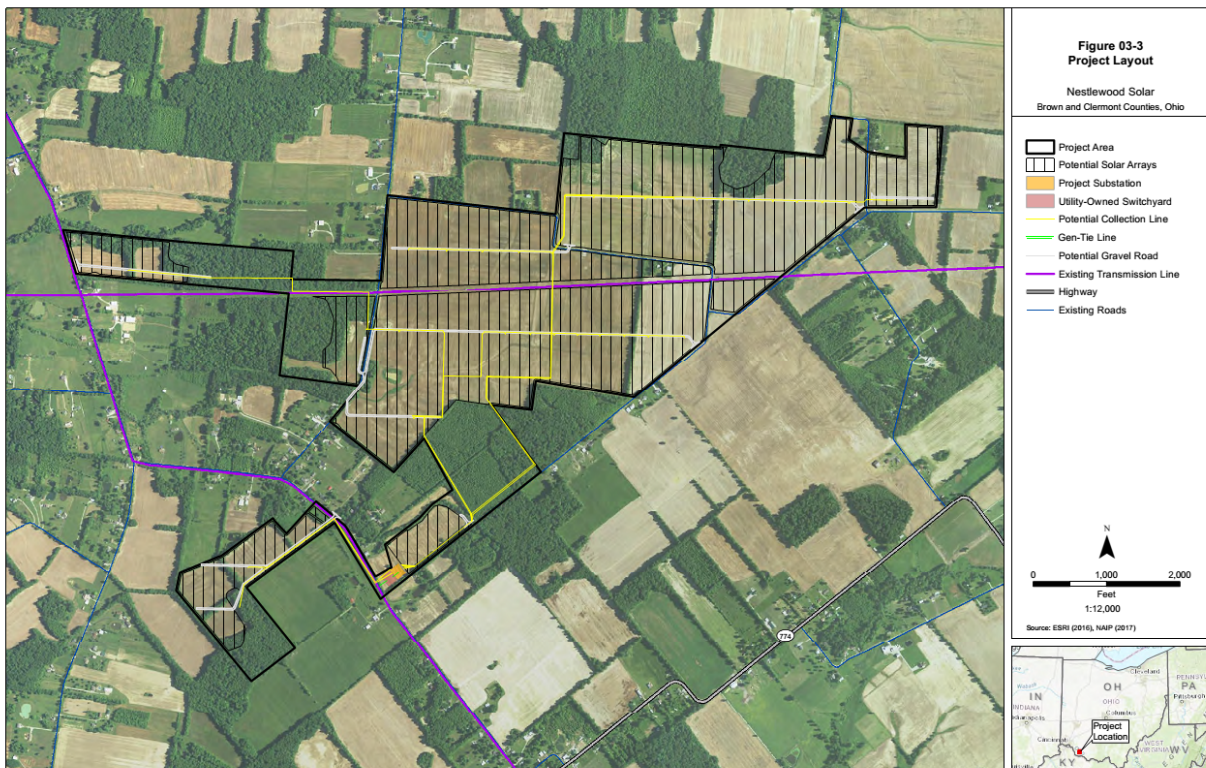
Furthermore, at the Public Informational Meeting November 7, 2018, Nestlewood Solar I LLC presented a layout of solar panels in this area only at the existing cleared portion. Now this area, provided with the application, shows solar panels in areas that have standing tall trees and would have to clear cut!!



It is therefore requested that Nestlewood Solar I LLC be denied approval for the proposed site between Oak Corner Road and Bethel Maple Road.

5. Property value

Solar farms are built on one continuous area of land. Here in this case the outline of the proposed site looks more like a metastatic cancer growth. It almost seems to look that Nestlewood Solar I LLC tries to encircle property owners that did not sign up for this project. Especially the fact that the proposed site between Oak Corner Road and Bethel Maple Road shows just few solar panels compared to the main area of the proposed site (see also section 4. Wildlife habitat).



This will have a negative effect on the surrounding property value. Studies, that looked at a change of property values of properties adjacent to solar farms all looked at solar farms that were built on one piece of continuous land. The layout of this proposed area will definitely have a negative impact on the property values of the adjacent properties.

It is therefore requested that, if granted approval, Nestlewood Solar I LLC be ordered to pay the adjacent property owners compensation for their diminished property value.

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

3/8/2019 4:53:57 PM

in

Case No(s). 18-1546-EL-BGN

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