

**BEFORE
THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD**

In the Matter of the Application of Hardin :
Solar Energy II, LLC for a Certificate of : Case No. 18-1360-EL-BGN
Environmental Compatibility and Public :
Need to Construct an Electric Generation :
Facility in Hardin County, Ohio :
:

**PREFILED TESTIMONY
OF
JAMES S. O'DELL
SITING, EFFICIENCY, AND RENEWABLE ENERGY DIVISION
RATES AND ANALYSIS DEPARTMENT
OHIO POWER SITING BOARD STAFF**

STAFF EX. ____

Dated: March 25, 2019

1 1. Q. Please state your name and business address.

2 A. My name is James S. O'Dell, and my business address is 180 East Broad
3 Street, Columbus OH 43215.
4

5 2. Q. By whom are you employed and what is your position?

6 A. I am employed by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (Commission)
7 as a senior Siting Specialist in the Siting, Efficiency and Renewable Energy
8 Division of the Commission's Rates and Analysis Department.
9

10 3. Q. Please summarize your educational background and work experience.

11 A. I hold Bachelor's Degrees from The Ohio State University in Political
12 Science (1988) and Sociology (1997). Additionally, I received a Master's
13 Degree in City and Regional Planning from The Ohio State University in
14 1992. I also have significant course work completed towards a Master's
15 Degree in Public Policy from Central Michigan University.
16

17 I have been employed by the Commission since 1991. I have worked
18 almost exclusively on power siting activities during that time. I have
19 developed analysis for over 350 cases before the Ohio Power Siting Board
20 (Board). My responsibilities typically include application review and the
21 preparation of analysis for major utility facilities in Ohio. Additionally, I
22 process and review minor filings such as Letters of Notification and

1 Construction Notices. In the past, I also have been the primary author for
2 the Board's annual reports. I have been the lead analyst in excess of 50
3 applications, responsible for the preparation of staff reports and
4 coordination of Staff review and field work for major utility facilities.

5
6 4. Q. Have you testified in prior proceedings before the Ohio Power Siting
7 Board?

8 A. Yes. I have testified in many cases before the Board concerning Staff's
9 investigation and report findings and recommendations on proposed siting
10 projects involving power plants, wind farms, substations, and transmission
11 lines.

12
13 5. Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?

14 A. I am sponsoring the Staff Report of Investigation (Staff Report) that was
15 filed in the docket of this case on March 26, 2019. I was the Staff project
16 lead on this case, and managed the Staff investigation and preparation of
17 the Staff Report.

18 6. Q. Please summarize Staff's investigation that was conducted in this case.

19 A. Staff's investigation included reviewing the application, conducting site
20 visits to the proposed facility location, acquiring additional information
21 from the applicant, obtaining input from state agencies that comprise the
22 Board along with other relevant state and federal agencies, and preparing a

1 Staff Report that presents Staff's analysis, conclusions, and
2 recommendations. As a result of Staff's investigation, Staff is recom-
3 mending that the Board approve the application, subject to the conditions
4 that are presented in the Stipulation.

5
6 7. Q. What kind of a case is this?

7 A. This is a 170 Megawatt solar-powered generating and battery storage
8 facility located in Hardin County, Ohio.

9 8. Q. Do you have any changes or corrections to make to the Staff Report of
10 Investigation?

11 A. I have no corrections to the Staff Report as docketed.

12
13 9. Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

14 A. Yes. However, I reserve the right to submit supplemental testimony as
15 described herein, as new information subsequently becomes available or in
16 response to positions taken by other parties.

PROOF OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing Prefiled Testimony of James S. O'Dell, submitted on behalf of the Staff of the Ohio Power Siting Board, was served by regular U.S. mail, postage prepaid, hand-delivered, and/or delivered via electronic mail, upon the following parties of record, this 25th Day of March, 2019.

/s/Jodi J. Bair

Assistant Attorney General

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Summary: Testimony of James O'Dell electronically filed by Ms. Tonnetta Scott on behalf of PUC