

FILE

March 30, 2019
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Re: 18-1607-EL-BGN-Emerson Creek Wind Farm

The Ohio Power Siting Board
 Ms. M. Beth Trombold, Interim Chair
 180 E. Broad St.
 Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Ms. Trombold:

The Emerson Creek Wind Farm Project plans to build a wind farm in rural Huron County. I have seen estimates of 60 -80 towers to be built. I envisioned a "wind farm" of these towers located on one large area such as the two in Benton County, Indiana, and Paulding, Ohio. Recently, I saw a site location map that staggered me: Towers are to be built over a many-mile area beginning in Erie County and ending east of Attica. That is NOT a farm, but a conglomeration! **It is absolutely unacceptable that this rural part of northern Ohio be degraded and destroyed by this project in the name of progress and clean energy. It will be an environmental disaster!!!!**

Ms. Trombold. I am an environmentalist. I work hard to be a good steward of the environment, and, Sherman Township, Huron County, Ohio, is my environment. It is also the environment of hundreds of people who feel the same way I do about their rural world. They take care of their land. My husband, who died in 2017, and I moved here on Ohio 547, because it was quiet, peaceful, and, the place where we wanted to spend the rest of our lives. Farms rarely come up for sale, and, when I drive around my township and see land owners outside, they're like me, people who love living in the country: in Sherman Township.

Now, these people from APEX who think they're preparing for the future, have decided that our township, and several townships surrounding Sherman, need to be part of a "future." **Will the residents of this area benefit? I certainly will not. The majority of residents will not. Some people will earn maybe \$18-20,000 a year, but that's a handful of people. The majority of residents do NOT want these towers polluting our environment. Wind farms have not been self-sustaining, which means the Federal Government subsidizes them ... which means, all of us will be paying for this project from which we will receive NO BENEFITS, just destruction of our land and environment! Not only land will be destroyed, trees that are "in the way" will be cut down. An environmental travesty!**

I have many concerns about this project. **First, is the total destruction of productive land.** Support pads must be built, and towers that might reach 650 feet high (that's a 60-story

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building!) will require at least a support pad of 30 feet square and 10 feet deep that is 9,000 sq. feet per tower! **A hole the size of two of the rooms in my house full of cement can never be removed.** As I said, this is a rural area with two-lane roads with no berms. The primary cement factory is located on the west end of Sandusky and will probably be the principle supplier of the high-density cement used to fill these holes. Can you imagine how many trucks will be utilized and how that will negatively affect traffic on Ohio 4? For months!!!! Ms. Trombold, have you traveled on Ohio 4? It is two-lane highway all the way south and no berms exists; ditches are on the entire length of the road. The trucks will travel 20 miles, cross Ohio 113 and Ohio 20 to get to Sherman Township. This area is already plagued with both heavy train and semi traffic. Every road has a No Jake Brake sign, and the cement truck drivers will jake-brake to their heart's content and create so much noise. **Environmental Disaster to the max: destruction of roads and highways, disruption of traffic for an extended time, and noise pollution!**

If indeed, high-density cement will be produced in Sandusky, few, if any, jobs will be generated because all construction is specialized, and local people are not trained.

My husband and I bought property on 547, right between 4 and 269, and recycled a barn into a home. And, we dug a basement. We sit on a huge limestone moraine that stretches across this part of the township. Contractors dug down 6-8 feet to do the basement and hit solid rock. Our basement is a hole in the rock. I know how much rock was displaced to dig our basement, and, to try to dig up land will be a supreme effort. Then, what does one do with all that rock? Just two of the many left in my yard are the size of grand pianos -- they are my piano rocks! That's more trucks and earth-moving equipment to remove rocks and soil and they must travel somewhere to dump the refuse.

You know that if Apex gets one tower up and running in 2020, it will declare the project is "in operation." That means months and months of trucks and trucks hauling concrete, land-moving monsters, and other equipment totally disrupting the lives of people who live in Sherman Township, and who have lived here all their lives. The roads in Sherman Township are two-lane with no berms. The heavy equipment will destroy them. Imagine this: a 600-ft. tower cannot be transported in one piece, obviously. My son used to work for a company in Texas that built towers, and some were so huge a truck could drive through them. (I walked through a tower tunnel.) A specially built flatbed (costing around \$1million) can transport one 70 ft section. That requires at least five vehicles to transport **one** part of the tower, plus another to transport the hub, and several more to transport the blades. And, four more sections must be transported and that is just one tower!! Multiply that by 60+. Traffic? The base parts of the towers will be on truck beds that require at least one-and-a-half roadway. Trucks cannot be passed because they are so wide. Ohio 4 is the main highway coming from the south to Sandusky, and traffic will be totally disrupted with trucks going and returning. Cedar Point, Kalahari, Great Wolf Lodge, and **all the business that depend on Ohio 4 traffic will be disrupted.**

Ah, Apex will declare that it will repair all the roads. Consider the number of destroyed roads in all parts of the county...that alone will take months. Quiet peaceful days will be gone forever as the towers hums and vibrations will make constant noise. The sounds of silence and the birds singing will not be heard. **Noise pollution!**

One woman wrote to the board stating concerns for the eagles and other birds in the area. Restoring eagles to the lake area and into Huron County has been a loooong, effort, and, now, eagles are part of our county. We see them flying here in Sherman Township, as well as herons, egrets, and geese that are also in the region. Bats, song birds....they may not matter to developers, but, they certainly matter to us. They are OUR environment, and they will be GONE! GONE!!! **Major environmental destruction of native birds and animals, plus the effect on all farm animals.**

And, then, one day, the towers will be decommissioned and dismantled. Carted away. **NO ONE will be there to dig up the dozens of cement pads that will remain – 30x30 ft square and 10 feet deep will be left for the grandchildren in land that is no longer usable. That is POLLUTION of the worst kind!!!** I don't think the people who want this project to be, even realize what will happen to the land and environment, and what it is going to look like with these 650 ft monstrosities everywhere. Money speaks, but reality says something different.

Some language in the Emerson material suggests that this is a sparsely populated area. Not True!!!! On page 50 of the Visual Impact Assessment from ECWF document, it reads: *The turbines become dominant new focal points that redefine the character of the view...The Project transforms the rural farmland to the center of a windfarm and has a substantial impact on scenic quality.* The passage ends: *This impact is tempered, however, by the relatively small number of viewers and lack of sensitive resources at this location.* Really? How dare they demean the residents and area like that. **THIS IS OUR BACK YARD!!!!!!**

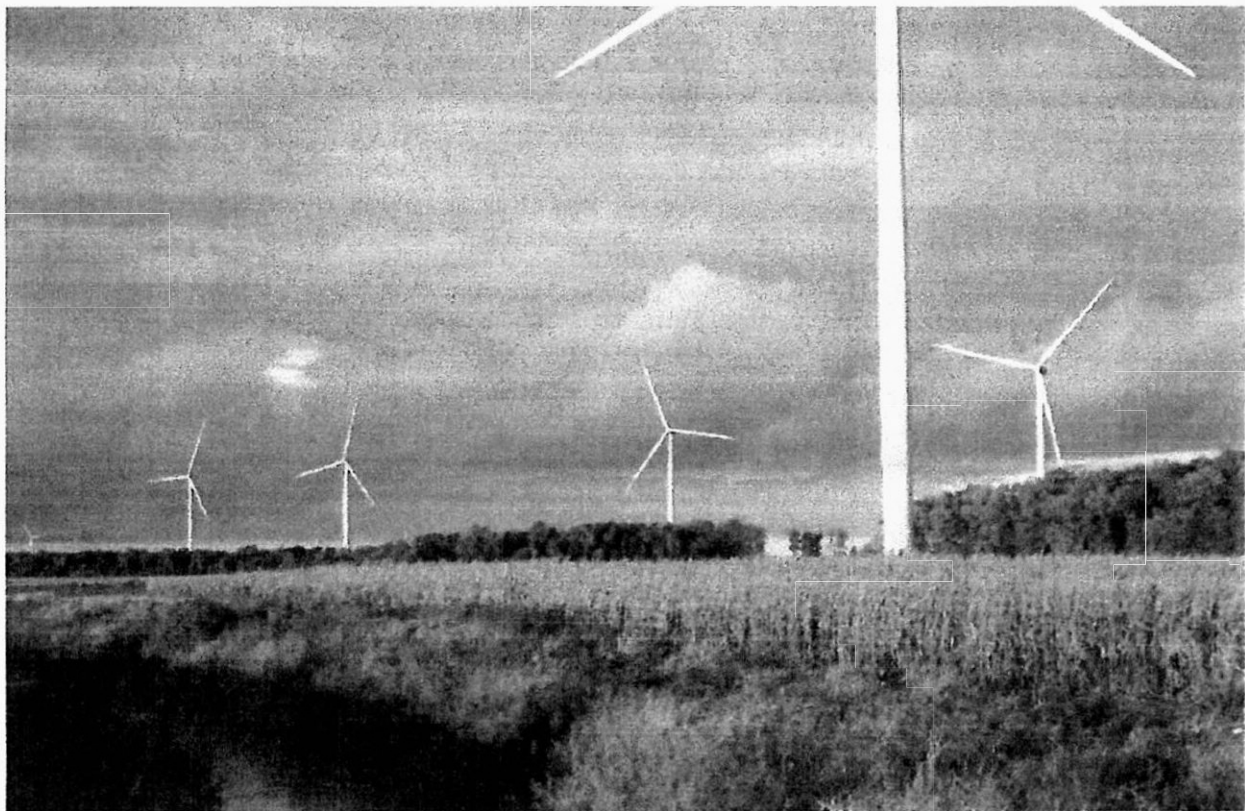
Ms. Trombold, I do hope your board members remember what a rural society and culture is. This project will severely alter the life styles of the residents, not just Sherman Township but all people in the affected area, who are ordinary, hard-working, proud people who have lived, probably, most of their lives on farms and property bought with hard-earned money. Life was never easy being farmers. Good years and bad years...marginal years, but, they persevered a: **That is Emotional Disruption and Pollution! Will this project serve the public interest? No! Just the people wanting some menial income. Is it convenient? Absolutely Not!!!! Is it necessary? Absolutely Not!!!!** I urge you and the Board members to understand that a positive vote is **NOT** in the interest of the people of these townships and counties, and to rethink what a disaster will be created. It cannot be cleaned up! It is here FOREVER! The APEX people do not have to live with the results or look in the mirror and ask, "what have we wrought," but, the members of the Board who are Ohioans do. How will they answer the question?

Very truly yours,



Patricia M. Olsen Ph.D.

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Inset 22: Visual simulation of proposed view from County Highway 64 (Pontiac Section Line Road), Township of Sherman

Proposed Project

With the addition of the Project to the landscape, multiple turbines are now prominent additions to the foreground, middle ground, and background of this view. The turbines become dominant new focal points that redefine the character of the view. Due to their proximity to the viewer, the turbines present strong line, form, and scale contrast with vegetation and landform in the view. The turbines occupy much of the open sky, and their direct illumination by the sun results in strong color contrast. Scale contrast is particularly notable with the nearest turbine which is significantly taller than the adjacent forest vegetation. The turbines in the background of the view are largely shielded by the woodlot, and views of these turbines are mostly restricted to portions of the blades. Nevertheless, the foreground and middle ground turbines now define the character of the view and introduce a new utilitarian land use. The Project transforms the rural farmland to the center of a windfarm and has a substantial impact on scenic quality. This impact is tempered, however, by the relatively small number of viewers and lack of sensitive resources at this location.

Cumulative Effect

No additional turbines from either the Seneca or Republic proposed projects are visible within this simulation.