

**BEFORE
THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD**

In the Matter of the Application of)
Angelina Solar I, LLC)
for a Certificate of Environmental) Case No. 18-1579-EL-BGN
Compatibility and Public Need)

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF

LANE E. OSSWALD

On behalf of

Preble County Planning Commission

May 10, 2019

1 **I. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY**

2 **Q: Please state your name, title and business address.**

3 A: Lane E. Osswald, Farmer/Owner Growing Acres Farm, 7391 Monroe Central Rd. Eldorado, OH 45321

4 **Q: What is your educational and professional background?**

5 A: B.S. Agriculture, the Ohio State University 1997, Professional Farmer.

6 **Q: Have you previously testified before a regulatory agency?**

7 A: Yes, U.S. Food and Drug Administration 2012

8 **Q: Are you currently a member of the Preble County Planning Commission?**

9 A: Yes. I am serving in my sixth year.

10 **Q: Do you hold a position on the Preble County Planning Commission?**

11 A: Yes.

12 **Q: What is that position?**

13 A: I currently serve as the chairman.

14 **Q: What are your duties as a member of the Preble County Planning Commission?**

15 A: To review any proposed changes or developments in Preble County and make recommendations to
16 the County Rural Zoning Commission.

17 **Q: On whose behalf are you offering testimony?**

18 A: The Preble County Planning Commission

19 **Q: What is the purpose of your testimony?**

20 A: To ask that additional information be provided by Open Roads Renewables to the Preble County
21 Planning Commission prior to the issuance of a certificate.

22 **II. DECOMMISSIONING PLAN**

23 **Q: What is the community where the Angelina Solar Project is to be located zoned?**

24 A: The area proposed to be the Angelina Solar Project is zoned Agriculture.

25 **Q: What is the primary use of the property where the Angelina Solar Project is to be located?**

26 A: Farming related activities, mostly crop production.

27 **Q: Does Preble County have a Comprehensive Use Plan?**

28 A: Yes

29 **Q: What is the designation of the area where the Angelina Solar Project is located?**

30 A: Agricultural

31 **Q: Why is a decommissioning plan important?**

32 A: Preservation of prime agricultural land for current and future use is a primary goal of the Preble
33 County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and Land Use Plan. Ensuring that the Angelina
34 Solar Project is properly and completely decommissioned in the future is of extreme importance.

35 **Q: Why is a decommissioning plan needed prior to the preconstruction meeting?**

36 A: The Preble County Planning Commissions responsibilities include understanding how the solar project
37 will be decommissioned, so that we can answer questions from Preble county residents. We have no
38 experience with solar projects. We would like to understand how the sites will be decommissioned prior
39 to permission being granted to build the project. This education will help the Preble County Planning
40 Commission prepare for the many questions surrounding the future use of the properties and how they
41 will fit into the Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

42 **Q: Does the application adequately address when a decommissioning plan should be provided by the**
43 **Applicant?**

44 A: No. "The applicant states it will prepare a comprehensive decommissioning plan for the Board." The
45 application states what the decommissioning plan will include but not when it will be provided. The
46 decommissioning plan needs to be provided prior to certification so that all parties understand that
47 adequate funding/bonding is in place for proper decommissioning.

48 **Q: Why is knowing the bonding information for the decommissioning important?**

49 A: The planning commission is more concerned with how the decommissioning will be performed and

50 that the site will be completely decommissioned before the certificate holder departs the site in the

51 future. An understanding of the decommissioning plan will help the Planning Commission ensure that

52 the land will be able to return to its prime agricultural status after the term of the certificate.

53 Understanding the decommissioning plan will also help the Planning Commission appreciate the amount

54 of bonding that will be required for decommissioning.

55 **III. CONCLUSION**

56 **Q: Do you have any additional comments?**

57 A: Yes. The Preble County Planning Commission also has concerns about the aesthetic value of the

58 project's road-side safety and security fences as they deteriorate over the 40 years long project. The

59 Township Trustees, in the effected townships, should be able to request: repairs, clean up, or

60 replacement of the fence lines as the need arises.

61 **Q: Does this conclude your testimony?**

62 A: Yes. Thank you.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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Summary: Testimony Testimony of Lane E. Osswald electronically filed by Ms. Kathryn West on behalf of Preble County Planning Commission, Preble County, Ohio