



## LAKE ERIE MARINE TRADES ASSOCIATION & BOATING ASSOCIATION OF OHIO

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Annual  
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Produced by  
Lake Erie  
Marine  
Trades  
Association:

February 10, 2020

Ohio Power Siting Board  
Docketing Division  
108 Broad Street  
Columbus, OH 43215-3797  
By email: contactOPSB@puc.state.oh.us

Re: Case# 16-1871-EL-BGN

Attn: Matthew Butler and Siting Board:



This letter supports the continuing demands for a full environmental impact statement prior to OPSB issuing any permit to LEEDCo for the construction of "Icebreaker" off Cleveland. This time concern for Lake Erie are being appropriately voiced in New York state with whom we share the lake.



As reported in the Buffalo News: "Lake Erie is simply too small to sustain any industrial offshore wind project," says Rich Davenport of Tonawanda, a spokesman for the Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs and the Western New York Environmental Federation. "The towers will displace water currents for quite a radius around each turbine, impacting nearby spawning shoals (even if sited away from spawning areas, you cannot avoid the current change), coupled with the massive amounts of infrasound, or low frequency noise, each turbine will generate while operating," he added.

There are badly needed answers to questions about the true impact of infrasound on fish and other marine life. Unlike the Atlantic Ocean where other wind turbine farms are being proposed, Lake Erie is only 12 miles wide at Sturgeon Point where there would be 50 turbines sited. The impact on the important fish spawning grounds there is unknown. More specifically, erecting 50 400-foot high industrial turbines from Lackawanna to Dunkirk, NY, without completing a full environmental impact statement is unconscionable.



Further, Ellen Banks of the Sierra Club Niagara Group, part of the Atlantic Chapter, notes the group wouldn't endorse anything like this until the environmental impact studies have been completed through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of Environmental Conservation.

New Yorker Mike Boicmenu, who has worked in the power industry for the last 50 years as an independent consultant with companies like Niagara Mohawk, contends while Lake Erie will take a hit as a natural resource, the energy generated will get sent downstate. "There haven't been enough studies done," Boicmenu says, "there needs to be a detailed environmental impact statement."



Here in Ohio, as in New York, it's unknown how bad it will be once developers like LEEDCo start stirring the sediments up in the bottom of the lake. We easily recall it was once called a "dead lake" due in major part to all the chemicals, carcinogens and dredgings polluting the waters and now resting on the lake bottom. Essentially mirroring Ohio citizens, in New York a group called "Citizens Against Wind Turbines in Lake Erie" has now been formed with nearly 1,800 people initially showing support by signing a petition to keep wind turbines off the lake.



Lake Erie is our source of good drinking water, a thriving fishery, home to countless waterfowl including the comeback of bald Eagles along our shoreline, and a magnet for millions of dollars in tourist money spent in Ohio each year. Still, the lake is a fragile ecosystem and the call for a full EIS to determine the true impact of turbines is the right action for the OPSB.

We urge you to demand the full EIS before any further consideration is given to permitting Icebreaker.

Sincerely yours,  
BOATING ASSOCIATIONS OF OHIO  
Michelle Burke, Executive Director

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities**

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

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**Case No(s). 16-1871-EL-BGN**

Summary: Public Comment of Michelle L. Burke, President of Lake Erie Marine Trades Association & Executive Director of Boating Association of Ohio, via website, electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing