

**From:** [Butler, Matthew](#)  
**To:** [Puco Docketing](#)  
**Subject:** public comment 16-1871-EL-BGN  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 4:18:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [Town of Evans NY Conservation Advisory Commission Letter in Opposition to Icebreaker Windpower Application.pdf](#)

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**From:** Paul Michalec <paul.michalec@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 4:10 PM  
**To:** Butler, Matthew <matthew.butler@puco.ohio.gov>  
**Subject:** Letter of comment in case 16-1871 ELBGN

Hello Mr. Butler. My name is Paul Michalec and I have prepared and attached a letter that I would like to be added to the public comments in case 16-1871 ELBGN. I have created an account with PUCO to submit my letter; however, I have been having some difficulty in being able to attach my document. It was suggest to me by an individual who has already submitted public comments in this case to send by letter directly for uploading.

If this is improper, please let me know. If not, thank you for your assistance. I hope all is well with you and the good people of Ohio.

Sincerely,

Paul Michalec - Chairman  
Town of Evans Conservation Advisory Commission and Climate Smart Task Force

**CAUTION:** This is an external email and may not be safe. If the email looks suspicious, please do not click links or open attachments and forward the email to [csc@ohio.gov](mailto:csc@ohio.gov) or click the Phish Alert Button if available.

April 14, 2020

Chairman Sam Randazzo  
Ohio Power Siting Board  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus OH 43215  
Samuel.randazzo@puco.ohio.gov

**RE: Case: 16 1871 EL BGN - The Application of Icebreaker Windpower, Inc. for a certificate to construct a wind-power electric generation facility in Cuyahoga County**

Dear Chairman Randazzo:

My name is Paul Michalec and I am a resident of the Town of Evans, New York. The Town of Evans is located approximately 20 miles to the south of the City of Buffalo and our western edge is Lake Erie's shoreline. I serve as the chairman of my town's Conservation Advisory Commission. This commission was established under Article 12-F, Section 239-x of New York State's General Municipal Law. I also serve as the chairman of my town's Climate Smart Task Force.

As you may know, similar plans like Icebreaker Windpower's proposal are also being contemplated for development and placement in New York State's section of Lake Erie. I am deeply opposed to any plan that contemplates using Lake Erie or any of the Great Lakes as a location to operate offshore wind turbines. As an individual who resides in Lake Erie's watershed I submit this letter as a public comment in your process and I am asking the Ohio Power Siting Board reject Icebreaker Windpower's request to install six wind turbines as a demonstration project in Lake Erie's waters near Cleveland, Ohio. Since the established record in this matter is quite voluminous, I shall keep my comments brief.

It is my most fervent hope the Ohio Power Siting Board understands that one of the greatest values Lake Erie has to offer the residents of Ohio and to everyone residing in the Lake Erie watershed is a lake that remains untouched from development and which forever remains in its natural state.

All of us who live and work within the Lake Erie watershed are responsible for its health and its care. We rely on the lake for our supply of fresh drinking water. We recognize and understand even the slightest amount of human activity impacts the health of the lake. It is therefore impossible for Icebreaker Windpower to claim they will not bring any harm to Lake Erie's waters and its natural environment. In fact, I find it to be the height of arrogance to claim, as Icebreaker Windpower has done, along with the Ohio Environmental Council and the Sierra Club, that this turbine plan appropriately balances the protections for wildlife, Lake Erie itself, and the entire environment along Ohio's north shore with the purported need for offshore wind power development. How can these groups possibly

know Icebreaker Windpower's plan will only cause minimal damage to the environment? Who bestowed on them the right to be able to determine what level of environmental damage is acceptable for "the greater good"? I do know one thing though: 100% of the damage that will be caused by this project will not occur if Icebreaker Windpower's proposal is formally rejected.

On page 145 of the Application filed on February 1, 2017 by Icebreaker Windpower Inc., it is stated:

"Because of their novel, man-made form *in an otherwise undeveloped view*, [emphasis added] and their unusual offshore location, the turbines will also be a new focal point in the view. Although mitigated somewhat by their distance from the viewer, the turbines could have a moderate to appreciable impact on scenic quality and viewer enjoyment of these types of views. In addition, the limited number of turbines, their clean, delicate lines, and their orderly arrangement do not significantly increase visual clutter, or decrease scenic quality."

That phrase sums up my point. Five simple words - "In an otherwise undeveloped view". That is how Icebreaker Windpower views Lake Erie - as an expanse that can be and should be developed. I should hope you find concern with their statement. The environmentalists who support this project have given away that which they have sworn to protect - Lake Erie's natural environment. Icebreaker Windpower is clearly stating they should be allowed to develop Lake Erie and in doing so they will somehow make it better, with the potential for "a moderate to appreciable impact on scenic quality". Icebreaker Windpower is telling the Ohio public the current view of Lake Erie's horizon is limited and meaningless and they can do better. Does Ohio really want an out-of-state company telling its residents they know what the better view is and that their turbines are more beautiful than anything nature can offer?

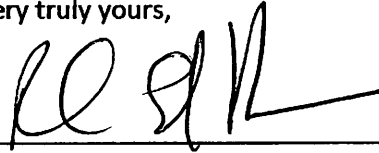
It is my hope the Ohio Power Siting Board will see things differently and commit to keeping and maintaining the vast expanse of Lake Erie free from human development. No amount of electricity that might be generated is worth destroying the scenic panorama; the point where the sky meets the unbroken water horizon. It is a view whose value is immeasurable, and few cities are afforded the luxury of being able to claim a water panorama as a backdrop. It is a natural resource that belongs not to just those who live near the water's edge, but everyone who comes to the lake and feels the vastness of its wide-open space. Every time someone looks out over the lake they see and feel what the Native Americans have always experienced, what Frenchman Louis Jolliet must have felt in 1669 when he first gave sight to Lake Erie, and by every observer of the lake since.

Icebreaker Windpower has given Ohio and the residents of the City of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County a hefty promise: they have promised 75,000 Mw of electricity; they have promised, at most, a minimal impact on Lake Erie's environment; they have promised our drinking water will not be affected; they have promised the wildlife will not be harmed; and have promised to improve the visual setting of the lake. Icebreaker Windpower has made every environmental promise and more. That alone should give the Ohio Power Siting Board pause because no one can make, and keep, those promises.

I respectfully request the Ohio Power Siting Board formally reject Icebreaker Windpower's application to construct a wind turbine demonstration project in Lake Erie near the City of Cleveland or anywhere in Lake Erie. We have made great progress improving the health of not only Lake Erie but all the Great Lakes and their respective natural environments. Let us not turn the clock back by giving away that which belongs to the people.

I thank you for your time and attention to the concerns and requests I have presented.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PE Michalec', written over a horizontal line.

Paul E. Michalec – Chairman  
Town of Evans Conservation Advisory  
Commission and Climate Smart Task Force  
8787 Erie Road  
Angola, NY 14006

cc:

Dorothy Pelanda, Director, Ohio Department of Agriculture ([Dorothy.Pelanda@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:Dorothy.Pelanda@agri.ohio.gov))

Lydia Mihalik, Director, Ohio Development Services Agency ([Ms.Mihalik@owt.ohio.gov](mailto:Ms.Mihalik@owt.ohio.gov))

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Amy Acton, M.D., MPH, Director, Ohio Department of Health ([DirectorAmyActon@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:DirectorAmyActon@odh.ohio.gov))

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Gregory Murphy, P.E. ([Greg.Murphy@dot.state.oh.us](mailto:Greg.Murphy@dot.state.oh.us))

Matt Butler to the Board ([Mathew.butler@puco.ohio.gov](mailto:Mathew.butler@puco.ohio.gov))

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

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

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**in**

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

Summary: Public Comment of Paul Michalec, Chairman, Town of Evans Conservation  
Advisory Commission and Climate Smart Task Force,  
electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing