

**From:** [Puco ContactOPSB](#)  
**To:** [Puco Docketing](#)  
**Subject:** comment 19-1641  
**Date:** Monday, August 3, 2020 11:31:13 AM

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**From:** Bonello, Enrico <bonello.2@osu.edu>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 1, 2020 12:58 PM  
**To:** Puco ContactOPSB <contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov>  
**Subject:** New gas plant at Ohio State University

To the OPSB:

As an Ohio citizen and a professor at Ohio State, I urge the OPSB to deny ENGIE/Ohio State permission to build a new gas plant on the OSU campus.

There are many reasons for my request:

1. The development goes totally contrary to OSU's stated intent of weaning itself off the teat of fossil carbon in the context of its sustainability plans.
2. The development will contribute significantly to the production of CO<sub>2</sub>, both at the source of the fracked gas (in the form of methane and CO<sub>2</sub> from flares), and when the gas is burnt at the plant – a double whammy. OSU building a new gas plant as the climate crisis worsens is like using gasoline to try and put out a fire. This proposal does not represent a real effort to tackle the climate crisis. OSU should have considered renewable energy, energy efficiency, and building electrification to meet the University's needs instead of a gas plant. OSU did not even consider solar or wind power as alternatives.
3. OSU building a new polluting gas plant in a highly populated area is not good for community health or the environment. The plant will produce substantial amounts of particulates that will make the air more toxic for OSU employees and the Columbus community, lowering the quality of life and increasing the cost of care for people with chronic asthma and other debilitating conditions. We don't even know what these impacts will be exactly, because ENGIE/OSU/ got an exemption from the environmental impact analysis that is otherwise usually required.
4. OSU is being a bad neighbor as the proposal is out of step with what central Ohio wants in terms of energy, the environment, and public health. This was demonstrated by Columbus Mayor Ginther's recent announcement he intends Columbus to be powered by 100% renewable energy by 2022.
5. Building of the plant will occur on a part of the Agricultural Campus that affects my work directly, as it will result in the demolition of irreplaceable infrastructure dedicated to the growth and maintenance of ornamental plants used in every day experimentation. Current plans to alleviate this situation are to move such facilities to Waterman Farm,

which is a logistically difficult “solution”, making my team’s research work much more challenging.

6. This siting will also necessitate the demolition and reconstruction of perfectly operational state-of-the-art greenhouses that will have to be relocated to a parking lot serving Kottman Hall, Howlett Hall, Parker Hall, and the Veterinary Hospital, making the parking situation way worse.

It seems to me there are so many negatives to this concept that it should be a slam dunk for the OPSB to deny the permit. I hope you will listen.

Pierluigi (Enrico) Bonello  
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Columbus, OH 43214

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**8/3/2020 12:32:06 PM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 19-1641-EL-BGN**

Summary: Public Comment of Pierluigi (Enrico) Bonello, via website, electronically filed by  
Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing