

From: [Ohio Power Siting Board](#)
To: [PucO Docketing](#)
Subject: comment 19-1641 [ref:_00Dt0GzXt._500t0Y6ExS:ref]
Date: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 4:23:52 PM

Re Case Number 19-1641-EL-BGN, the OSU Combined Heat and Power Plant: I urge you to deny this request to build this plant. Paraphrasing someone from the last hearing, it is like investing in a horse-drawn wagon company in 1910. Not only is renewable energy already competitive, the handwriting is on the wall for the fossil fuel industry, such that some investment firms urge getting out of fossil fuel investments, and colleges and nonprofits with endowments are being urged to divest from fossil fuels; it is particularly disturbing that OSU is proposing building this plant in the face of such trends. Furthermore, fracking is not profitable and has been living on borrowed money, which is in the process of ending. One more point, for a plant to be in service 50 years: no power provider wants to be the last one depending on a fuel source, because then they are left to prop up the entire system providing that fuel.

One thing obvious from the last six months is that situations can change dramatically in a very short time. Because of the pandemic, sheltering in place, and working from home, many businesses may not return to their office space, which changes commercial real estate dramatically. Higher education will undergo changes that were not foreseen in January of this year, probably with more schools closing. While Ohio State will survive, we have no idea of what higher education will look like down the road, and the idea that college will come back to what it looked like before is anything but certain. After all, this pandemic won't be the last one, especially as climate change accelerates. Just notice that the world has changed dramatically just in the time since this project was planned.

Another disturbing question relates to why Ohio State even wants this, as it proclaims its goals of sustainability, yet already has more sustainable options. In this era of Ohio House Speaker Householder getting indicted for racketeering as part of the scheme to pass First Energy's \$1 billion bailout of two old nuclear plants, one wonders about the money. This doesn't mean Ohio State has done anything illegal, but it does make one wonder about donor money. As to Ohio State looking to promote a speculative solution of "green hydrogen" down the road, is that due to donor money, is it someone's pet research project, or what? If they are getting fossil fuel funding, I would point out the the financial health of the oil and gas industry is declining, and that such donor funding will likely end sooner than expected.

I urge you to deny permission for the OSU CHP plant.

Charlotte J Owens 

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Summary: Public Comment of Charlotte J Owens, via website, electronically filed by
Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing