August 18, 2020

To the Ohio Power Siting Board,

I am writing in support of the Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Facility as proposed by The Ohio State University under the Ohio Power Siting Board Case Number 19-1641-EL-BGN.

On behalf of the Ohio Oil & Gas Association, I would like to express support for the proposed CHP facility. Since its creation in 1947, our organization has been the leading voice for the state's oil and natural gas industry. This includes both small, independent conventional producers and large independent horizontal operators exploring Ohio's shale play. Our membership also consists of midstream companies, large-scale transmission line companies, contractors, oilfield service and supply providers, manufacturers, gas utilities and various other professional entities. Our member companies are proud of the work they do to produce abundant, affordable energy for the residents of Ohio and, indeed, across the globe.

The new CHP allows Ohio State to position the energy profile of the university in a way that allows for the addition of renewalbe energy sources in the future. CHP technology is currently promoted by EPA as a proven solution to reduce carbon footprint, especially in locations where heat and power is needed year round, such as the case at Ohio State's campus.

This project has multiple benefits, including:

- Reducing the university's Columbus campus carbon emissions by up to 35% in the first full year of facility operation,
- Adding to the university's overall resiliency by behind-the-meter generation,
- Reducing the university's total cost of energy,
- Providing efficient thermal energy through co-generation, significantly reducing the fuel used in existing boilers for campus heating, and
- Supporting the new innovation and research district facilities being constructed on the university's West Campus through utility service.

Please consider this letter in support of approval for the proposed CHP facility while considering the merits of the project to support the university's energy sustainability and operational efforts.

Respectfully,

Matthew Hammond
President, Ohio Oil & Gas Association

From:	Puco ContactOPSB
To:	Puco Docketing
Subject:	comment 19-1641-EL-BGN
Date:	Tuesday, August 18, 2020 10:36:21 AM
Attachments:	C8CA656B43CF44E68EA03BEAAF6BC600.png F7C3721D1B3B4520AD2672F9AF0D6116.png 42DAD446788845B1910D56F1FFCA1779.png 808C714318334BC0BE26ED9F794BB8F1.png 3C8F652082FD41EFA18F1C3C85DB0068.png 5D0035CD7C4C4C6BBC541A54676C1685.png BF7C43CBA0AE49DC97931B9A4B5942B7.png 25E2F859E1B846FC95BF2F0A395BB0D2.png 4EAD29F5B0034E45B41A53FB64B74A16.png GradRoots OPSB Letter on CHP Plant.pdf image003.png image005.png image006.png

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From: Abou-Ghalioum, Victoria L. <abou-ghalioum.1@buckeyemail.osu.edu>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2020 5:52 PM
To: Puco ContactOPSB <contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov>
Cc: Sforza, Stephanie A. <sforza.11@buckeyemail.osu.edu>
Subject: Comment for OPSB Case File 19-1641-EL-BGN

Hello, please take the below letter into consideration for Case 19-1641-EL-BGN and see this attached document for a full list of signatories. Please see this link for a live updated version of this document: https://bit.ly/fullgradrootsletter

GradRoots
Contact: sforza.11@osu.edu
Letter OPPOSING new plant
Case 19-1641-EL-BGN

To the members of the Ohio Power Siting Board and the Public Utilities Commission:

GradRoots writes to you as a constituent of The Ohio State University (OSU) community and as one of the primary groups which will be affected by the decision to build the combined heat and power plant on West Campus. GradRoots is the official graduate student organization for the School of Environment and Natural Resources (SENR), which is located on OSU's West Campus in Columbus, Ohio. We have over 100 SENR graduate students in our membership and as an organization, oppose the decision to build the gas plant.

By promoting the adoption of this plant, OSU eschews student interest and integrity. The SENR mission statement is to "…promote discovery and leadership through a comprehensive approach to better understand and address environmental and natural resource challenges,

locally, regionally, and globally." At a more broad level, SENR is housed under the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES). The CFAES mission statement is: "We sustain life." In order to fulfill these missions, it is imperative that our words match our actions. Sustainability and ecological responsibility are integrated into the core values of OSU, CFAES and SENR. The promotion of this plant is incompatible with these values, as natural gas cannot be sustainable in the long term and has the potential to cause serious ecological damage. Therefore, we firmly oppose the proposal to build this plant and deem it a violation of OSU's responsibility to promote the well-being of our state, regional, national, and global communities.

The implementation of this plant, to be situated adjacent to the university's research arm that works towards a healthy biosphere, clean energy and biological health, is a juxtaposition that we cannot stand to see on our campus. Mayor Ginther's plan to transition to 100% renewable energy for the city of Columbus is a leading, forward-thinking proposal that is in line with the previously-stated SENR mission. As a nationally leading scientific institution and the representation of a major portion of Columbus, OSU should be planning for long-term, research driven, cooperative leadership. The Ohio State University should be a leader in sustainable technology, setting a precedent for other Big 10 schools and Research 1 institutions across the nation. Building a natural gas plant and entering into the 50-year contract with Ohio State Energy Partners to privatize the usage of energy created through this plant is a smear on the face of OSU's reputation as a leader in sustainability.

Research on natural gas extraction shows that natural gas is not cleaner than coal. Fracking produces methane leakage into the atmosphere during transportation and into groundwater near fracking sites, in addition to causing soil erosion and water pollution (Meng, 2017). The pollution and intense utilization of limited water resources by the energy generation process is irresponsible towards future generations of Americans, as we are likely to experience shortages in the face of population growth and climate change. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports that methane traps at least 34 times more heat into the atmosphere than carbon dioxide. The IPCC is the guiding authority on climate change research. Some of our own CFAES faculty have worked with the IPCC, and we believe that this research was overlooked or ignored when the decision to build this plant was made.

It is clear that economics have played an influential role in this decision, as demonstrated by the University's agreement to receive $1.1B upfront to build this plant. However, while natural gas extraction is economically attractive at the onset, the true costs are substantially higher than the original estimates. Natural gas is often quoted based on the initial costs of extraction, but cost increases due to continued extraction of depleted resources and implementing pollution mitigation projects have not been accounted for. Alternatively, green energy solutions are more economically-viable in the long-term than natural gas extraction, since they become more cost-effective with added investment. This is one of the reasons why green energy solutions are the fastest growing energy source in the U.S. The more OSU strives towards a sustainable future, the less it will ultimately cost. Battery and energy storage solutions have advanced resoundingly in the last decade. Today, the technology to store energy for an institution the size of OSU is available, and it is expected that soon energy storage will reach an efficiency to be used by the average American consumer. Many colleges and universities (including large public research universities) are transitioning to 100% renewable energy and replacing fossil-fuel powered systems with electric and/or renewable energy systems. Should OSU build this plant, when the contract expires in 50 years, OSU energy production will be far outdated even to the average American household. The Ohio State University will be considered a polluting relic of the past rather than a national leader,

and replacing the plant later will be extremely challenging and expensive.

The negative social outcomes of building this plant include increased air pollution due to particulate matter from the plant and traffic, increased risk of severe health issues for local residents, and the devaluation of properties in the surrounding areas. The surrounding community includes many members of GradRoots and OSU faculty. Additionally, Appalachian communities will face further environmental and social devastation from continued "boom and bust" exploitation. As such, if OSU, a land grant institution, builds this plant, the University clearly communicates that the health and well-being of its students, faculty, and surrounding community are not considered in decision making.

GradRoots encourages The Ohio State University to join other institutions paving the way towards sustainable energy by implementing *real* clean energy solutions. Further, the undersigned expect OPSB to reject the proposal to build this plant. This proposal is not innovative, forward-thinking, or a "silver bullet" to reducing carbon emissions. Rather, this plant is a short-term, short-sighted solution that will have damaging ripple effects for OSU and its student body, all the while crippling the impact of our research and the leadership reputation of the University.

Signed,

The GradRoots Board

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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Victoria Abou-Ghalioum (she/her/s)
Graduate Fellow
School of Environment and Natural Resources
Kottman Hall, 2021 Coffey Road, Columbus, OH 43210
abou-ghalioum.1@osu.edu
https://linktr.ee/vaboug

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

Summary: Public Comment of Matthew Hammond and Members of GradRoots, via website, electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing