

BEFORE THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD

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In the Matter of the :
Application of Atlanta :
Farms Solar Project, LLC, :
for a Certificate of :
Environmental : Case No. 19-1880-EL-BGN
Compatibility and Public :
Need to Construct a :
Solar-Powered Electric :
Generation Facility in :
Pickaway County, Ohio. :

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PROCEEDINGS

before Ms. Greta See and Mr. Matthew Sandor,
Administrative Law Judges, and Mr. Samuel Randazzo,
Chairman, Ohio Power Siting Board, via Webex, called
at 6:07 p.m. on Thursday, October 22, 2020.

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7 On behalf of the Applicant.

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Thursday Evening Session,
October 22, 2020.

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ALJ SEE: Good evening and welcome,
everyone. My name is Greta See, and with me is Matt
Sandor that just indicated I was muted. We are the
Administrative Law Judges in the Legal Department of
the Ohio Power Siting Board. As the assigned
Attorney -- I'm sorry. As the assigned
Administrative Law Judges, our duties include
conducting the public hearing in this matter, Case
No. 19-1880-EL-BGN, which involves the application
filed by Atlanta Farms Solar Project, LLC, for a
certificate to construct a solar-powered electric
generation facility in Pickaway County, Ohio.
Throughout this evening you may hear Judge Sandor and
I, as well as others, refer to Atlanta Solar Farms as
the project.

Due to the COVID-19 emergency that
remains in effect under Executive Order No. 2020-01D
issued by the Governor of Ohio and consistent with
Amended Substitute House Bill 197, tonight -- today's
hearing is being held through Webex which enables
interested persons to offer testimony on the proposed
project by telephone or video over the internet. The

1 hearing is also being live streamed at
2 www.youtube.com/user/pucohio.

3 Before we get started with the public
4 hearing, I would -- I would like to address some
5 preliminary matters. First, if you experience
6 technical difficulties during the hearing, there are
7 several options to address the issue. If your
8 internet connection drops at any point, you can try
9 to join Webex again by video, or you can participate
10 by phone. If those options are unsuccessful, please
11 call the Board's Legal Department at (614) 466-6843
12 immediately for assistance.

13 Finally, if you merely wish to listen to
14 the hearing using your phone instead of accessing via
15 Webex, you can view the live stream on the You Tube
16 Channel, or you can listen to the hearing by dialing
17 1-408-418-9388 and entering meeting No. 1730311816.

18 More information about the Webex
19 technical help options can be obtained through the
20 chat feature which will be available throughout the
21 hearing. You may click on the chat button at any
22 time to obtain technical assistance or to ask
23 procedural questions during the hearing. The chat
24 feature should not be used for any other purpose such
25 as to offer comments about the proposed project that

1 is the subject of today's hearing. Please be aware
2 that chats are recorded and should not be considered
3 private. Chats also are not part of the official
4 record for this case.

5 As indicated by the entry issued on
6 August 31, 2020, witnesses are required to register
7 to testify. Individuals who have registered to
8 provide testimony should be ready to speak when we
9 read their name from the registration list.

10 Individuals who are commenting by video will be
11 unmuted by a Board staff member when it is time for
12 their testimony. If you will be providing your
13 testimony by telephone, a Board staff member will
14 call you at the phone number you provided when it is
15 your turn to testify.

16 Please bear with us as we work to queue
17 up each individual which may take some time and
18 divert our attention from what is happening at the
19 hearing. If this happens, please be patient and know
20 that we are working to ensure that everyone has an
21 opportunity to participate this evening.

22 Consistent with the entry of August 31,
23 we ask that, out of courtesy to the other individuals
24 who have registered to offer testimony this evening,
25 that you keep your testimony to a reasonable period

1 of time, approximately 5 minutes or so, and avoid
2 repetitive comments. To avoid unnecessary background
3 noise, we will keep your microphone on mute unless
4 you are commenting. Again, if you have questions
5 about this process as the hearing proceeds, please
6 use the chat function.

7 Are there any questions before we
8 officially get started with today's proceedings?

9 As it appears that there are no questions
10 tonight, I will turn it over to my Co-Judge, Matt
11 Sandor.

12 ALJ SANDOR: Thanks, Judge See.

13 The Ohio Power Siting Board has scheduled
14 for hearing at this time and place Case No.
15 19-1880-EL-BGN which is captioned in the Matter of
16 the Application of Atlanta Farms Solar Project, LLC,
17 for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and
18 Public Need to Construct a Solar-Powered Electric
19 Generation Facility in Pickaway County, Ohio.

20 As I mentioned -- or as mentioned
21 earlier, my name is Matt Sandor. And assigned to
22 this case with me is Greta See. We are
23 Administrative Law Judges in the Board's Legal
24 Department, and we will be conducting today's
25 hearing.

Also presiding with us today is the Chairman of the Ohio Power Siting Board, Sam Randazzo. I believe that the Chairman has some words to share with us, so I will turn it over to him.

Chairman.

CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: Thanks, Matt and Greta, both of you, and also to Matt Butler for his helpful comments to get this started. As Matt indicated, the purpose of this hearing this evening is to allow parties in the locality that may be affected by the project to provide us with their views on the project. And we know this is important to all of you so it's important to us. And we will turn it over to the -- to the rest of the hearing so that we can get started with the more important part of this process. Thanks, Matt and Greta.

ALJ SANDOR: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

In addition to the Chairman, Administrative Law Judge See, and myself, there are other staff members from the Board assisting with various aspects of the hearing including Mary Fischer, Matt Butler, Jill Coker, and Brittany Waugaman who will be overseeing the event on Webex and YouTube.

At this time we will take the appearances

1 by counsel of the parties to this case. We will
2 begin with the Applicant.

3 MS. PIRIK: Thank you, your Honor. On
4 behalf of the Applicant Atlanta Farms Solar Project,
5 LLC, the law firm of Dickinson Wright by Christine
6 Pirik and William Vorys, 150 East Gay Street, Suite
7 2400, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

8 ALJ SANDOR: Thank you.

9 We have one Intervenor in the proceeding.
10 It's the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation. And we also
11 have Board counsel for Board Staff.

12 Thank you. I'll note that while counsel
13 for Ohio Farm Bureau Federation and Board Staff may
14 not be participating in this proceeding, non-counsel
15 representatives of the Federation and Board Staff may
16 be attending.

17 The subject of today's hearing is an
18 application filed -- filed by Atlanta Farms Solar,
19 LLC, for the purpose of constructing and operating
20 the solar-powered electric generation facility.
21 Specifically, the proposed project would occupy up to
22 1,375 acres within a 2,276-acre project area in Deer
23 Creek and Perry Townships in Pickaway County. The
24 project will generate 199.6 megawatts. Atlanta
25 Farms' application was filed on January 31, 2020, and

1 was supplemented on March 3, 2020, and March 17,
2 2020.

3 I would also note that the Board's Staff
4 filed a Report of Investigation on October 7, 2020.
5 This report is a recommendation from the Board Staff
6 and does not necessarily reflect what the Board's
7 final determination in this case will be.

8 The purpose of today's public hearing is
9 to receive testimony regarding Atlanta Farms'
10 application from entities and persons and the local
11 community who are affected by the proposed project
12 but who are not parties to the case. The public
13 hearing is not a question and answer session but is
14 an opportunity to let the Board know what you think
15 about the proposed project.

16 Today's public hearing is only one aspect
17 of the process in this case. And the evidentiary
18 hearing is scheduled to begin on Wednesday,
19 November 4, 2020, through Webex. The purpose of the
20 evidentiary hearing is for the parties in this case,
21 including the Applicant, the Intervenor Ohio Farm
22 Bureau Federation, and the Board Staff to provide
23 testimony and other evidence regarding the project.

24 Tonight's hearing is being transcribed by
25 a court reporter, Karen Gibson, from Armstrong &

Okey. If you plan to testify, please speak clearly so that the court reporter can accurately reflect your comments on the record. Please make sure that you verbally respond to all questions asked in order that they can be properly transcribed.

After I finish with this introduction, I will begin by calling individuals on the registration list to testify about the proposed project. Each person who registered to testify will be permitted to speak once -- once about the project.

We will ask you to take an oath or affirmation that what you are about to say is the truth. Your testimony will then be considered as part of the official record in this case, and it will be reviewed by the Board before a final decision is made on the application.

Additionally, counsel for the parties in this case, as well as the Chairman, Judge See, and myself will be permitted to ask you questions about your testimony. Should you decide that you do not want to testify, when I call your name from the registration list, you can pass to the next witness.

Also once you have finished testifying or if you are merely here to observe, you may leave the hearing at any time that you wish. If individuals

wish to supplement their testimony with an exhibit for the Board's consideration, a copy of the document, along with a reference to Case No. 19-1880-EL-BGN, must be provided to the Board no later than October 28, 2020, by electronic mail to contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov, or by mail to Ohio Power Siting Board, 180 East Broad Street, Attention: Docketing Division, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

For those of you not testifying but who wish to file a public comment regarding the proposed project can do so in writing on the Board's website by electronic mail at contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov or by mail to Ohio Power Siting Board, 180 East Broad Street, Attention: Docketing Division, Columbus, Ohio 43215. Written comments should reference Case No. 19-1880-EL-BGN.

The Board appreciates your participation in tonight's hearing, and we want everyone who is registered to testify to have the opportunity to do so. At this time we are going to begin with the testimony. Both Judge See and myself apologize in advance if we mispronounce your name, but we'll try our level best to get it right.

So our first witness registered is John Funk who, I believe, may not be connected through the

1 internet to Webex, so if you -- if, Mr. Funk, if you
2 happen to be connected by phone, we ask that you
3 please hang up and call (614) 466-6840 so we can
4 change your testimony to testifying via the phone.

5 So at this point we'll move on to the
6 second witness who is George Schein.

7 MS. FISCHER: Mr. Schein, you have been
8 promoted to a panelist. There you go.

9 MR. SCHEIN: Yes. Hello. My name is
10 George Schein.

11 ALJ SANDOR: One moment, Mr. Schein.
12 Sorry about the name. Could you please raise your
13 right hand.

14 (Witness sworn.)

15 ALJ SANDOR: Please state and spell your
16 name for the record.

17 MR. SCHEIN: George Schein, G-E-O-R-G-E
18 S-C-H-E-I-N.

19 ALJ SANDOR: Also please provide your
20 address including the township and whether you reside
21 or work within the project area.

22 MR. SCHEIN: Address 9480 U.S. Highway
23 22, Williamsport, Ohio 43164.

24 ALJ SANDOR: Thank you.

25 MR. SCHEIN: I live in Deer Creek

1 Township, and now that we are working from home, I am
2 working in the township at least three days a week,
3 but my office is actually in Columbus, Ohio.

4 ALJ SANDOR: Okay. Thank you. Do you
5 work/reside within the project area?

6 MR. SCHEIN: I live in the project area.
7 I live in Deer Creek Township.

8 ALJ SANDOR: Okay. Correct. All right.
9 Go ahead.

10 MR. SCHEIN: I just want to start by
11 thanking everyone tonight who is providing comments,
12 and I'm here to speak in general in support of the
13 project.

14 And my first argument is a conservative
15 argument, which for those of you that know me know
16 that I'm not very likely to give usually, but that is
17 the conservative argument in support of the project
18 just based on property rights. So I just think that,
19 you know, who are we to prevent our neighbors from
20 maximizing the profits of their private property.
21 This seems like an issue that conservative voters in
22 the area can get behind. I'm a bit confused by those
23 who seem opposed, although I'm willing to come
24 towards tonight with an open mind and be convinced
25 otherwise.

1 But notwithstanding that open mind, my
2 general opinion is that people should be able to do
3 what they want with their property so long as it does
4 no -- does no harm to their neighbors which leads me
5 to my second point.

6 I don't understand that these solar
7 panels do cause any harm to neighbors, neighboring
8 landowners. They don't cause air pollution. They
9 don't cause sound pollution. They also do not harm
10 the waterways which is more than can be said for the
11 chemicals and the fertilizers, pesticides, and
12 weedkillers used by most farmers in the area today.

13 My third point is on the financial
14 benefits. Not only will the individual property
15 owners benefit financially but that added income will
16 eventually be recognized in local tax revenue. From
17 what I understand, and I don't have hard numbers, but
18 the local school system stands to benefit
19 substantially from the added revenue from these solar
20 farms; and, in fact, the school system is Westfall
21 High School which is, you know, asking for a levy at
22 this time specifically because they need more money
23 for construction to update their buildings. In
24 addition, the township stands to benefit financially
25 as well, although, from what I understand, it's to a

1 smaller extent.

2 My fourth point is on esthetics. I hear
3 people say these will be visually ugly. It will
4 cause visual pollution. And I have driven and --
5 done some research and driven by some of these solar
6 farms in Indiana, and they don't seem like monstrous
7 eyesores to me. They are generally fenced in and
8 surrounded by trees, and they look like any other
9 open field, just that the crops on top of them are a
10 bit larger.

11 And this is sort of a rhetorical question
12 but if we can stop these projects just because our
13 neighbors think that they are ugly, can I also go
14 around and call the yard police on every property
15 owner in the township with a horribly kept lawn and
16 broken down, rusted out cars on blocks in the front
17 yard?

18 My fifth point is the environment. Not
19 only are these solar panels not bad for the local
20 environment but they are also good for the global
21 environment. Climate change is real, and CO-2
22 emissions are the main cause. As a country, we need
23 to continue to move away from coal and oil and
24 eventually natural gases towards more renewable
25 energy. This is an opportunity for local property

1 owners to help in that endeavor.

2 And then my final point is very much a
3 broad, big picture perspective and that's
4 independence in general. Aside from the
5 environmental arguments is the energy independence
6 argument. As a country, the less we rely on oil rich
7 countries in the Middle East to supply our energy,
8 the less we will need to involve ourselves in the
9 politics of foreign countries in order to secure
10 energy resources. This will, in turn, hopefully lead
11 to a less militarily aggressive foreign policy which
12 could ultimately save our country in terms of lives
13 lost as well as tax dollars spent overseas.

14 That concludes my testimony for this
15 evening. I appreciate everyone's time. Thank you
16 very much.

17 ALJ SANDOR: Thank you. And before we
18 excuse you, are there any questions for the witness
19 from Chairman, counsel, or the Bench?

20 All right. Hearing none, thank you for
21 your testimony and you are excused.

22 All right. So our next witness,
23 registered witness, is Jane Harf who, I believe,
24 we're having the same potential issue as we did with
25 Mr. Funk. She might not be connected through the

1 internet to Webex. So, Ms. Harf, if you are
2 connected by phone, please hang up and call (614)
3 466-6840 so we can change your testimony to that via
4 phone.

5 So then let us move on to the next
6 registered witness who is Ray Davis.

7 MS. FISCHER: Mr. Davis has been promoted
8 to a panelist. I am going to unmute you now.

9 ALJ SANDOR: Mr. Davis.

10 MR. DAVIS: I can hear you. I'm trying
11 to get my video on.

12 ALJ SANDOR: Okay. We will give you a
13 moment. Let's try to get it on.

14 MR. DAVIS: I am getting an error
15 message. I can't connect to the webcam.

16 ALJ SANDOR: Okay. All right. Well, we
17 can proceed. Could you please raise your right hand.

18 MR. DAVIS: It is raised

19 ALJ SANDOR: Thank you.

20 (Witness sworn.)

21 ALJ SANDOR: Can you please state and
22 spell your name for the record.

23 MR. DAVIS: My name is Ray Davis, R-A-Y
24 D-A-V-I-S.

25 ALJ SANDOR: Thank you. And can you

1 please provide your address including the township
2 and whether you work or reside within the project
3 area.

4 MR. DAVIS: My address is 2040
5 Ginghamburg-Frederick Road in Tipp City, Ohio, and I
6 do not live in the project area, but I have been
7 enlisted to work in the project area.

8 ALJ SANDOR: Okay. Proceed with your
9 testimony.

10 MR. DAVIS: Yeah. My name is Ray Davis,
11 and I am president and a partner of OGW Energy
12 Resources. We're a company that's been around for
13 over 12 years in Ohio. We are a design-build
14 renewable energy company with a core focus on solar
15 and lighting.

16 I have two main points I want to give
17 tonight. No. 1 is that Savion with the Atlanta Farms
18 project has enlisted us for something that I have not
19 seen before which is a good neighbor solar
20 residential program. And when I said that I've been
21 enlisted to work in the area, we've been knocking on
22 doors in the local proximity of the project for the
23 Good Neighbor Solar Residential Program. I'm
24 extremely proud of that project because it's been
25 quite some time in the making, and we collaborated

1 with Savion on it to make it come to fruition for the
2 Atlanta Farms project.

3 But the real reason for my testimony is
4 that I want to share with everybody how I got
5 involved with solar in the first place. And I'll be
6 brief because I know time is of the essence here. In
7 2004, my first son was born, and in the delivery room
8 right after he was born the nurse does her normal
9 check and something -- something was wrong. The
10 entire NICU staff came in and took my son away from
11 us. And come to find out that he was struggling
12 breathing.

13 For many, many months after that, he
14 slept in a bassinet with -- next to our bed with
15 monitoring, and every time that alarm would go off
16 for the monitor, it meant he stopped breathing. And
17 I would jump out of bed, I would shake him, and I
18 would kind of revive him, kind of like jump start
19 him, and he -- he's a severe asthmatic, so taking him
20 to the hospital, taking him to emergency centers,
21 taking him to the doctor when his oxygen levels
22 are -- are low, checking it daily.

23 Pulmicort, Singulair, Prednisone,
24 Flovent, and a whole host of other drugs were a
25 blessing and a curse. They are a blessing because I

1 don't think he would be here today without those
2 drugs. They are a curse because of the side effects
3 that I became aware of. Obviously you are giving
4 that to your child. The bottom line on that is that
5 through that suffering, you know, as a parent when
6 you see your child can't breathe, you want to fix it.

7 And so I started doing some crazy amount
8 of research. Come to find out the year he was born
9 in 2004, sulfur dioxide, we were the most -- the
10 worst emitter. We were ranked No. 1 as the worst
11 emitter of sulfur dioxide. Sulfur dioxide, or SO₂,
12 is horrible for asthmatics. The particulates
13 basically attack the lungs, and when you learn that
14 your asthmatic son, who is struggling to breathe,
15 struggles to breathe the air, what's left to do?

16 So at that point in time I decided to
17 start a renewable energy company. Every solar array
18 that we install is a point of pride so the next Aaron
19 that's born that's struggling to breathe, it's just a
20 little bit better. We are doing a little bit better,
21 but we are ranked No. 3 now. In the last data that I
22 have seen is No. 3. And when you consider that
23 there's 320 million Americans, the EIA outlook, the
24 projections for the next 25 years say that we need
25 more and more energy. We're going to 400 million

Americans. As a state, as a country, we must do better. We not only need to replace old sources of energy; we need to keep expanding all sources of energy, particularly solar which does not have lead, arsenic, and particularly sulfur dioxide which, as I said, hurts my son.

So with that I give my personal endorsement for the project, and as president and a partner of OGW Energy Resources, I absolutely wholeheartedly give my endorsement for the project.

ALJ SANDOR: Thank you, Mr. Davis.

Any questions from Chairman, counsel, or Bench?

CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: Yes, Judge Sandor, I do have a question.

Mr. Davis, thank you for your testimony. This is Sam Randazzo speaking. The -- I'm curious, can you give us just sort of a quick overview of what the Good Neighbor Solar Residential Program is?

MR. DAVIS: Sure. What I can talk about is that I am given a priority list. That priority list from the Atlanta Farms project, from Savion, has the people that are the closest in proximity to where the project is. I have already been out and about with Sarah Moser, who is, I'm sure many of the panel

1 knows who she is, with Savion knocking on doors,
2 talking about this program. The program's first
3 come, first serve, and if the project goes through,
4 we hope to work with Savion with the Atlanta Farms
5 project to provide solar or some other needs that the
6 homeowner may have.

7 In a 10,000 foot overview, that -- that's
8 the project.

9 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: Great. Very helpful.
10 Thank you.

11 MR. DAVIS: Thank you.

12 ALJ SANDOR: Any other questions?

13 Hearing none, thank you for your
14 testimony, Mr. Davis. You are excused.

15 I would also like to mention that if --
16 for those who were not connected to the internet, a
17 member of our staff will attempt to contact those
18 people, Ms. Harf and Mr. Funk, and see if they can
19 help them get logged on or join in some other manner.

20 And also there is a correction on the
21 phone number to call in. It's (614) 466-6843. 6843.
22 Thank you.

23 So our next witness is Jill Riddle.

24 MS. FISCHER: Ms. Riddle has been
25 promoted to a panelist and unmuted.

1 ALJ SANDOR: Ms. Riddle.

2 MS. RIDDLE: Yes.

3 ALJ SANDOR: Hi. Can you please raise
4 your right hand. Oh, we can see you now.

5 MS. RIDDLE: Yes.

6 ALJ SANDOR: I can see your right hand.
7 (Witness sworn.)

8 ALJ SANDOR: Thank you. Please state and
9 spell your name for the record.

10 MS. RIDDLE: My name is Jill Riddle,
11 J-I-L-L R-I-D-D-L-E.

12 ALJ SANDOR: And please provide your
13 address including the township and whether you work
14 or reside within the project area.

15 MS. RIDDLE: My address is 19284 London
16 Road, Circleville, Ohio 43113. I live in Jackson
17 Township. It is not in Perry Township or Deer Creek
18 Township.

19 ALJ SANDOR: Thank you. Go ahead with
20 your testimony.

21 MS. RIDDLE: I am opposed to the
22 development of a power plant on farm ground in Perry
23 Township. My mom, my nephew, and his family live
24 less than one-half mile from the proposed power
25 plant. I attend church in the area and visit my mom

1 daily in the area of the proposed development.

2 At meetings with the developer, I have
3 asked questions, as have others with concerns. I
4 have listened to the responses from the developer
5 which did not answer my questions but instead were
6 about what they see as the benefits of the proposed
7 power plant, of thinking progressively, and in
8 generating revenue for the community.

9 Their stance is that there is no reason
10 to be opposed to an energy plant being placed on the
11 farm ground and that the benefits are huge, their
12 claims for huge revenue coming into the community,
13 keep energy being available, creation of jobs for
14 local people, money for the schools.

15 They've indicated being opposed to this
16 power plant as being opposed to prosperity and
17 growth. This is not the case for me. I, along with
18 many others who question this development, am a
19 lifelong resident of Pickaway County, and I want good
20 things to happen but not at the expense of losing
21 farm ground and changing the landscape to that of a
22 power plant for 30 years to come.

23 What has been asked but not answered by
24 the developer, first, what is the long-term effect of
25 a power plant on fertile farm ground? Second, what

1 is the actual energy savings benefit to the community
2 as far as the electric that is generated from this
3 power plant? Third, what guarantee exists that
4 protects the community from misuse of, neglect of, or
5 damage from the power plant? And, fourth, why wasn't
6 a location chosen for the power plant that is already
7 paved or developed and why place the power plant on
8 fertile farm ground?

9 Without answers from the developers,
10 other conclusions are reasonable. One is that there
11 is no history to draw on about what happens to the
12 farm ground after 20 to 30 years of an energy plant
13 being located on it. Two is that residents in the
14 area probably won't be the guaranteed consumers of
15 the electrical energy from this power plant. Three,
16 the protection from the neglect or damages doesn't
17 exist and wouldn't occur. Concerned residents who
18 experience the impact from damage or neglect
19 associated with the project will have no support
20 readily available to fix the problem. And, fourth,
21 that locations other than this farm ground, those
22 that are already paved or developed, were not chosen
23 probably because they were not close to the electric
24 towers that already exist on this farm ground. They
25 weren't as easy to procure as the farm ground, and

1 they were more costly to develop than this farm
2 ground.

3 Some of the property owners under
4 contract with the developer are absent from the area.
5 Because they do not live in the area, they will not
6 see or be a part of the change in the landscape that
7 will be in place for 30 years.

8 The people who will use this energy are
9 likely far from here, but they are also consumers of
10 food. The existing farm ground here is needed for
11 crop or livestock production. This proposed power
12 plant could be located somewhere else that is already
13 paved or developed; and if that happened, the power
14 plant could be built, the electric could be produced
15 as clean energy, and the farm ground protected.
16 There are other ways to accomplish the creation of
17 clean energy power plants without using thousands of
18 acres of farm ground.

19 That concludes my testimony.

20 ALJ SANDOR: Thank you. First, any
21 questions from Chairman, counsel, or the Bench?

22 Hearing none, thank you, Ms. Riddle.
23 Thank you for your testimony tonight. You are
24 excused.

25 Our next witness is Jaime Heath.

1 MS. FISCHER: Ms. Heath, you've been
2 promoted to a panelist position, and I am unmuting
3 you now.

4 ALJ SANDOR: Ms. Heath.

5 MS. HEATH: Yes.

6 ALJ SANDOR: Hi. Please raise your right
7 hand.

8 (Witness sworn.)

9 ALJ SANDOR: Thank you. Please state and
10 spell your name for the record.

11 MS. HEATH: Jaime Heath, J-A-I-M-E
12 H-E-A-T-H.

13 ALJ SANDOR: Also please provide your
14 address, including the township, and whether you
15 reside or work within the project area.

16 MS. HEATH: My address is 24960 Moler
17 Road, Williamsport, Ohio, and I reside in the project
18 area. I live in Deer Creek Township.

19 ALJ SANDOR: Thank you. Go ahead with
20 your testimony.

21 MS. HEATH: Thank you once again for
22 taking this testimony and letting -- and giving us an
23 opportunity to speak. I'm speaking in opposition of
24 the solar panel project. My property resides within
25 a thousand feet of the proposed Atlanta Farms solar

1 project.

2 And I suppose my specific concerns
3 regarding the project are the unknown environment
4 factors for the soil and the surrounding areas of the
5 lease of 30 years, the effect on the local township,
6 and the use of the good, viable farmland. As these
7 solar farms are still young in the age of actual
8 environment factors are unknown, they have not
9 existed that long, what will be the long-term effects
10 of these -- of these actual projects in the
11 neighbors' land? Will the batteries that store the
12 electricity be disposed of correctly?

13 And there are many factors out of our
14 control that can affect our community. As the panels
15 are anchored into the ground, this could cause damage
16 to the field tiles. This could also affect many
17 farms around the area and can infect the substance in
18 other surrounding farms and our water streams. And
19 living in rural Ohio, we do not have city water, only
20 well water, and no one knows what kind of chemicals
21 could be potentially harmful that could be filtered
22 into our home.

23 In regards to our local township, there
24 has been much research done that indicates the solar
25 panel farms can give off bad reflection. And as it

1 appears in the property outline, the solar panels
2 will be located close to the roadway in Deer Creek
3 Township.

4 We only have volunteer fire fighters.
5 Are these properties close by high risk for fires,
6 and will our property insurance increase?

7 I personally love living in rural Ohio so
8 I can see wildlife out in the fields and endure our
9 quiet community, and I live personally on a dead end
10 road. This is exactly why we moved here and I hate
11 to think that we can no longer enjoy watching deer
12 eating the corn in the field at harvest.

13 Another concern is the use of viable
14 farmland. And every day the United States loses
15 farmland to development. Why -- while we depend on
16 electricity for everyday life, we are also dependent
17 on food, and if our farmland continues to decline,
18 farmers will be unable to produce crops to fill our
19 table. And why can't these solar panels be placed in
20 the area where there's desert land or that -- on top
21 of properties and not good, viable farmland?

22 And that concludes my testimony. Thank
23 you.

24 ALJ SANDOR: Any questions from the
25 panelists?

1 Thank you for your testimony, Ms. Heath.
2 You are excused.

3 And I will now turn it over to Judge See.

4 ALJ SEE: Thank you, Judge Sandor.

5 The next witness on the registration list
6 is Kim Davey. If our host could promote Ms. Davey.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Your Honor, I have
8 Telephone Witness Davey on the phone.

9 ALJ SEE: Okay.

10 MS. DAVEY: Hello.

11 ALJ SEE: Hello, Ms. Davey.

12 MS. DAVEY: Hello. My name is Kim Davey.

13 ALJ SEE: Could you raise your right
14 hand, please.

15 MS. DAVEY: Yes, ma'am. It's raised.

16 (Witness sworn.)

17 ALJ SEE: Okay. Please state -- please
18 state and spell your name for the record.

19 MS. DAVEY: My name is Kim Davey, K-I-M
20 D-A-V-E-Y.

21 ALJ SEE: And provide us your address.

22 MS. DAVEY: I live at 24235 Mouser Road,
23 New Holland, 43145. That is in Perry Township,
24 Pickaway County.

25 ALJ SEE: Okay. And do you live in the

1 pro -- do you live or work in the project area?

2 THE WITNESS: I live in Perry Township,
3 yes, ma'am.

4 ALJ SEE: Okay. Go ahead with your
5 testimony, please, Ms. Davey.

6 MS. DAVEY: Okay. I would like to voice
7 my concerns regarding the proposed solar project near
8 Atlanta in Perry Township. The OPSB has on file a
9 written letter from me dated November 25, 2019, and
10 an e-mail sent on April 26, 2020.

11 My main concern is the using of fertile
12 farm ground for this type of project. According to
13 the American Farmland Trust, 3 acres of farmland are
14 lost every minute to development in the United
15 States. 41 percent of the lost acres comes from
16 development in rural areas like ours.

17 In the April 2020 Ohio Country Journal,
18 it's stated there are 12 solar energy projects being
19 built or in the planning stages covering about
20 16,000 acres in the State of Ohio. This should be a
21 concern for the OPSB that all of these projects are
22 permitted to proceed for the next 25 to 40 years
23 taking all of this ground out of crop production as
24 well as income from the farmers who would have been
25 paid by landowners to farm this land if they were not

1 the owners themselves.

2 In the February 15, '16 Circleville
3 Harold, Donna Dente, vice president of Savion, said,
4 quoting, "Pickaway farmers have been proudly farming
5 family land for many generations and now have an
6 opportunity to utilize their land to harvest another
7 stable crop, the sun." However, according to the
8 list of tracts listed as leased to the OPSB by
9 Savion, the two largest tracts are owned by people
10 not living in Ohio, one in Monterey, Louisiana, the
11 other in Morrisville, North Carolina.

12 These tracts have been farmed through
13 cash rent, custom farming, or some other arrangement
14 with the landowners that live out of state. If you
15 don't want to consider the number of bushels of grain
16 lost to these types of projects for 25 to 40 years,
17 then consider what would happen to the farmer who did
18 have income from these acres through cash rent or
19 some other means now in the future.

20 Sarah Moser, Senior Development Manager
21 to Savion, was quoted in the Circleville Harold
22 December 4, 2019, saying "A big thing people say to
23 me is taking prime farmland out of production, but I
24 always tell these people it's not out of production
25 and there is no concrete in the ground. When we're

1 done, these -- those come out like fenceposts, and
2 you are back to normal." I would like to ask how
3 normal would be defined in 25 to 40 years and what
4 will taxes look like for the landowner/farmer who may
5 choose to go back to farming this ground instead
6 leasing it for solar projects?

7 Alex Baker, the Development --
8 Development Manager for Savion, commented on the cost
9 savings to families and businesses in the Circleville
10 Harold on June 14, 2019, saying "From a community
11 standpoint, it will help lower costs at the hub. The
12 utility companies own the power lines that bring the
13 electricity from our projects to homes and businesses
14 and are responsible for pricing of electricity."

15 Sarah Moser was asked at the December 18,
16 2019, public meeting if this project will lower
17 electric costs and replied it may not. Savion is
18 projecting \$1 million of income to the county
19 townships and school, but in a March 9, 2020,
20 Columbus Dispatch article Jill Hall, who is the Brown
21 County Auditor, where a project is underway by
22 Hillcrest Group, said "It's degrading the roads,
23 ditches, and culverts going into driveways. It's a
24 mess she said. I'm terribly concerned." When asked
25 about the new revenue the county hopes to receive,

1 she said "At this point I'm just hoping we break
2 even."

3 Our county has a proposed Atlanta project
4 and another proposed solar project near Yellowbud.
5 Do we really as a farming community want these types
6 of projects taking farmland out of use for 25 to 40
7 years when the electricity generated may be sold to
8 the highest bidder and not offer any or little
9 savings on electricity to the local residents?

10 Please consider my concerns and I do
11 thank you for the time to be able to speak. That
12 ends my testimony.

13 ALJ SEE: Thank you. Are there any
14 questions from counsel, the Bench, or the Chairman?

15 Okay. Thank you very much.

16 MS. DAVEY: Thank you.

17 ALJ SEE: Our next witness is Tyler
18 Duvelius. If the host could promote Mr. Duvelius.

19 MS. FISCHER: Mr. Duvelius, you have been
20 promoted to a panelist position, unmuted.

21 MR. DUVELIUS: Wonderful. Can you see
22 me, Judge?

23 ALJ SEE: Yes, we can, Mr. Duvelius. If
24 you would raise your right hand.

25 (Witness sworn.)

1 ALJ SANDOR: Please state and spell your
2 name for the record.

3 MR. DUVELIUS: My name is Tyler Duvelius,
4 T-Y-L-E-R, last name D as in delta U-V as in Victor
5 E-L-I-U-S.

6 ALJ SEE: Please provide us your address.

7 MR. DUVELIUS: I live at 2211 Old Dublin
8 Road, Apartment No. 148, in Columbus, Ohio 43228.

9 ALJ SEE: And do you live or work in the
10 project area?

11 MR. DUVELIUS: I do not.

12 ALJ SEE: Please go ahead with your
13 testimony.

14 MR. DUVELIUS: Thank you, Judge See,
15 Judge Sandor, Chairman Randazzo. My name is Tyler
16 Duvelius. I serve as the executive director of the
17 Ohio Conservative Energy Forum, or as I may refer in
18 my testimony tonight OSEF.

19 I am here tonight to speak for the
20 approval of the Atlanta Farms solar project. I'll
21 keep my remarks brief and try not to repeat points
22 that have already been made this evening. I do know
23 there is a presidential debate many of us are
24 interested in seeing.

25 OSEF was founded in 2015 to provide a

1 forum for conservatives to discuss the diverse all of
2 the above energy portfolio, one that includes not
3 only existing sources of energy generation such as
4 coal and natural gas and nuclear, also seeking to
5 expand the development of clean and renewable energy
6 sources like solar energy. We view clean energy as
7 raw power harvested from God's creation, an
8 opportunity to lower costs for our families, for our
9 farmers, and for our job creators. It can strengthen
10 both our economy and our national security.

11 Currently Ohio's an importer of energy.
12 That means we have to rely on other states to fulfill
13 our energy requirements and that's precisely why
14 approving projects like Atlanta Farms is so vital.
15 We need more made in Ohio energy generation.

16 But I'm not here tonight to talk about
17 the potential of solar energy -- industry in Ohio but
18 rather to specifically discuss the jobs, community
19 benefits, and landowner assets that would accompany
20 the approval of the Atlanta Farms solar project in
21 Pickaway County. The clean energy industry already
22 has over 114,000 jobs in the state of Ohio.
23 11.3 percent of these jobs, approximately 13,000, are
24 filled by Ohio veterans, and a little over 8,700 of
25 these jobs are from the solar industry.

Now, the Atlanta Farms solar project would add to these numbers by creating almost 600 construction jobs and nearly 30 long-term jobs in Pickaway County. And we're all aware of the unplanned, unprecedented economic effects of the COVID-19 crisis. We've all felt that tension one way or another.

And the clean energy is no exception. Ohio has lost over 200,000 clean energy jobs during this pandemic period and that makes it ever more important to approve this project as our economic recovery for Ohio continues. We certainly know local governments have had to tighten budgets in the wake of coronavirus.

Like with most other energy generation projects, the approval of the Atlanta Farms by this committee would bring over \$41 million to local economies in Pickaway County. That includes around \$28 million in payments to the Westfall School District, over \$7 million to the Pickaway County general, and over \$6.5 million to be split between the township governments of Deer Creek and Perry Townships. And in a year when Pickaway County stands to lose significant revenue to the cancellation of at least my beloved Circleville Pumpkin Show which was

1 scheduled to begin today know that the approval of
2 this project was certainly welcome news to local
3 communities in Pickaway County.

4 And, finally, it's important to note the
5 benefits to landowners should Atlanta Farms be
6 approved. As farmers lease, not sell, their land,
7 the money received from those lease agreements
8 provide a buffer against shifting commodity prices
9 and barren crop fields. This buffer is particularly
10 important as Pickaway County farmers are emerging
11 from a growing season that featured moderate drought
12 conditions.

13 If approved, the Atlanta Farms project
14 would provide over \$32 million in new solar payments.
15 This revenue will ensure that family farms can be
16 secure in their operation and continue to operate for
17 generations to come. It keeps farms -- and I come
18 from Warren County, a rural county. It keeps farms
19 from becoming subdivisions.

20 To quickly summarize my testimony, in a
21 year that has thrown a number of challenges to all of
22 Ohio, the Atlanta solar farm project promises to be a
23 ray of good news to Pickaway County by creating jobs,
24 generating local revenue, and supporting those in the
25 agricultural community. There are a number of

1 stakeholders that stand to benefit from the approval
2 of this project.

3 Thank you for your attention to my
4 testimony. I am happy to answer any questions there
5 may be.

6 ALJ SEE: Are there any questions by
7 counsel, Chairman, or Judge Sandor?

8 Thank you very much.

9 MR. DUVELIUS: Thank you, your Honor.

10 ALJ SEE: Step down.

11 If the host could promote our next
12 witness, Daniel Shirey.

13 MS. FISCHER: Mr. Shirey, you have been
14 promoted to a panelist and unmuted.

15 MR. SHIREY: Thank you. Can you hear me
16 okay?

17 ALJ SEE: We can hear you, Mr. Shirey.
18 We cannot see you.

19 MR. SHIREY: Okay. I might be able to
20 fix that. How's that?

21 ALJ SEE: We can now see you, Mr. Shirey.

22 MR. SHIREY: By the way it's Shirey.

23 ALJ SEE: It's Shirey, okay. I apologize
24 for butchering your name.

25 MR. SHIREY: No problem. It happens

1 daily.

2 ALJ SEE: Shirey. Mr. Shirey, if you
3 would raise your right hand.

4 (Witness sworn.)

5 ALJ SEE: Please state and spell your
6 name for the record and provide your address.

7 MR. SHIREY: Sorry. My name is Daniel L.
8 Shirey, that's S-H-I-R-E-Y. My address is 2602 Tick
9 Ridge Koenig Hill Road, Otway, Ohio 45657. I do not
10 live nor work in the project area. However, I do
11 represent electrical workers that do live in the
12 project area and hopefully soon will be able to work
13 on this project in the project area.

14 ALJ SEE: Okay. Go ahead with your
15 testimony, sir.

16 MR. SHIREY: All right. Thank you for
17 allowing me to speak tonight. I serve as business
18 manager for IBEW Local 575 which has jurisdiction in
19 10 counties in Ohio including Pickaway County.

20 I come before you today to give full
21 support of the Atlanta Farms solar project. Not only
22 would this project provide approximately 200 good
23 paying jobs for local workers, it would also provide
24 increased tax revenue for the local communities, not
25 to mention clean, renewable energy that has obvious

1 benefits for the environment.

2 In my opinion, you know, diverse
3 selection of energy generation is the best solution
4 to address energy needs of the 21st Century. And
5 Atlanta Farms solar project would provide substantial
6 benefits to the workers, communities, and environment
7 in the Atlanta community and general Pickaway County
8 area.

9 I urge the Ohio Power Siting Board to
10 approve this application. Thank you.

11 ALJ SEE: Are there any questions from
12 any of the other panelists, the Bench, counsel, or
13 Chairman Randazzo?

14 Hearing none, we would like to thank you
15 very much, Mr. Shirey. Thank you for your testimony.

16 Our next witness this evening is Taylor
17 Christian. If the host could promote Taylor
18 Christian.

19 MS. FISCHER: Thank you. Mr. Christian
20 is promoted to a panelist and unmuted.

21 ALJ SEE: Hello, Mr. Christian.

22 MR. CHRISTIAN: Hey, how's it going? I
23 wanted to make sure my camera was on and everything.
24 All right.

25 ALJ SEE: It is on.

1 MR. CHRISTIAN: Perfect. Perfect.

2 ALJ SEE: I need you to raise your right
3 hand, sir.

4 (Witness sworn.)

5 ALJ SEE: Please state and spell your
6 name for the record.

7 MR. CHRISTIAN: My name is Taylor
8 Christian. Taylor is spelled T-A-Y-L-O-R. Christian
9 is spelled C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N.

10 ALJ SEE: And your address, sir.

11 MR. TAYLOR: My address is 9499 West
12 Calla Road, C-A-L-L-A, Road, Salem, Ohio 44460.

13 ALJ SEE: And do you live or work in the
14 project area? Mr. Christian, we are experiencing
15 some technical difficulties. Can you hear me?

16 MS. FISCHER: Mr. Christian, this is the
17 host. I suggest you turn off your video feed to
18 enable your audio to be stronger.

19 ALJ SEE: Can we determine if
20 Mr. Christian is still connected? Mr. Christian, if
21 you can hear me, we cannot see nor hear you. I would
22 recommend that you call the Legal Department at (614)
23 466-6843 if you can hear me and try to get
24 reconnected to the hearing.

25 MS. FISCHER: Are you with us,

1 Mr. Christian?

2 MR. CHRISTIAN: Can you hear me?

3 ALJ SEE: Mr. Christian, we can hear you.

4 MR. CHRISTIAN: You can.

5 ALJ SEE: Yes, we can.

6 MR. CHRISTIAN: Okay. Can you go over it
7 again just so I can -- in case it happens -- in case
8 this happens again?

9 ALJ SEE: Let me give you the number.
10 It's (614) 466-6843.

11 MR. CHRISTIAN: All righty.

12 ALJ SEE: As you have been sworn, go
13 ahead with your testimony.

14 MR. CHRISTIAN: All righty. Good
15 evening, members of the Ohio Power Siting Board. My
16 name is Taylor Christian. I'm the field operations
17 director for the Ohio Land & Liberty Coalition. The
18 Land & Liberty Coalition is a project of the Ohio
19 Conservative Energy Forum, OSEF. OSEF focuses
20 primarily on state-level policies while the Land &
21 Liberty Coalition engages on local energy issues
22 across the State of Ohio.

23 As an Ohioan myself, I encourage you to
24 approve the Atlanta Farms solar project. This
25 project has a number of benefits that include

1 increased resilience for Ohio farmers, more energy
2 independence for our state, and additional
3 development here in Ohio.

4 Farmers in Ohio and across the country
5 must navigate through varying commodity prices and
6 shifting property rights. Renewable energy projects
7 like the Atlanta Farms solar project come with
8 leaseholder payments for the landowner, many of whom
9 are farmers. The nearly \$33 million paid to
10 leaseholders will provide a long-term fixed income
11 that could provide a buffer against the challenge
12 farmers face day in and day out.

13 This fixed income can help to secure
14 loans as well. A potential lender wants to ensure
15 the loan will be repaid. Seeing this long-term
16 steady cash flow can provide reassurance to lenders
17 allowing farmers to take out loans in order to
18 improve their operations.

19 In some cases leaseholder payments can
20 help farmers retain control of their farms. The
21 money from harvesting wind on some portion of the
22 property allows the farm to make a steady enough
23 profit that the rest of the land can be used to grow
24 crops. Yes, some of the land will be temporarily
25 taken out of agricultural production.

1 The alternative, selling this land to be
2 turned into housing developments or other
3 nonagricultural uses would permanently remove this
4 land from agricultural production. Atlanta Farms
5 overall will help to retain farmland in the long
6 term.

7 Farmers aren't the only beneficiaries of
8 solar projects. Our stable benefit as a whole by
9 approving this project and others like it, Ohio can
10 diversify its energy portfolio. As Tyler said
11 earlier, we are currently energy importers on the
12 net, and I would personally like to see Ohio turn
13 into a net energy exporter. The more energy that we
14 produce here, the better we can navigate future
15 energy challenges that may occur. With more energy
16 produced here from a plethora of sources, Ohio can be
17 better insulated from fluctuations in price and
18 availability.

19 Finally, Atlanta Farms, and renewable
20 projects like it, will increase economic development
21 here. They did this in a number of ways in the case
22 of Atlanta Farms. The construction phase will create
23 almost 600 jobs. Afterwards, there should be around
24 30 long-term jobs created in the community. If
25 that's not enough, Atlanta Farms stands to provide

1 around \$28 million for the Westfall Local School
2 District without requiring additional school
3 spending. The project will provide over \$7 million
4 in Pickaway County's general fund without requiring
5 additional infrastructure spending and will also
6 provide over \$6-1/2 million to be split between Deer
7 Creek and Perry Townships and again without requiring
8 additional spending for our local governments.

9 It's also important to note how vital
10 renewable energy development is to attracting a
11 business here. Companies like Google, Facebook,
12 Amazon, and many others want renewable energy when
13 looking to site new facilities and thereby creating
14 jobs. They are going to be attracted to areas that
15 can provide the renewable energy they want. The more
16 that we generate here, the better our chances of
17 attracting businesses. If Ohio doesn't take the lead
18 in renewable energy development, it could be losing
19 out on a lot of opportunity for its workers.

20 In sum, I encourage you to approve the
21 Atlanta Farms solar project. Among the benefits for
22 doing so are increased resilience for our farmers,
23 increase energy independence for the state of Ohio,
24 and additional economic development here.

25 Thank you for your time and I am happy to

1 entertain any questions you have or might have
2 regarding my testimony.

3 ALJ SEE: Are there any questions from
4 counsel, the Chairman, or the Judge?

5 Hearing none --

6 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: I do have one
7 question, your Honor, if I may; and it's just as a
8 result of the technical difficulties we had, I don't
9 think Mr. Christian indicated whether he lives or
10 works in the project area.

11 MR. CHRISTIAN: I'm sorry. I do not live
12 or work in the project area. Did you get my address,
13 or was that cut out too?

14 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: I think we did get
15 your address.

16 MR. CHRISTIAN: Okay. I just wanted to
17 make sure.

18 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: Yeah. Thank you.

19 MR. CHRISTIAN: All right. Thank you.

20 ALJ SEE: Thank you, Mr. Christian.

21 Our next witness is Lyle Drake. If the
22 host could promote Mr. Drake.

23 MS. FISCHER: Mr. Drake, you have been
24 promoted to a panelist and unmuted.

25 MR. DRAKE: Can you hear me?

1 ALJ SEE: Yes, we can hear you, Mr.
2 Drake. Could you --

3 MR. DRAKE: My name is Lyle -- my name is
4 Lyle Drake.

5 ALJ SEE: Sir, could you please turn your
6 camera on.

7 MR. DRAKE: I am not having any luck.

8 ALJ SEE: Okay, Mr. Drake. If you would
9 please raise your right hand.

10 MR. DRAKE: It's raised.

11 (Witness sworn.)

12 ALJ SEE: Please state and spell your
13 name for the record.

14 MR. DRAKE: My name is Lyle Drake.
15 That's L-Y-L-E D-R-A-K-E. My address is 1031 Apollo
16 Road Northeast, Carrollton, Ohio 44615.

17 ALJ SEE: And do you live or work in the
18 project area?

19 MR. DRAKE: I do not live nor work in the
20 project area.

21 ALJ SEE: Okay.

22 MR. DRAKE: So I'm here to testify on
23 behalf of the Atlanta solar project. I am in favor
24 of that project. I work for a company that
25 notoriously we have been in business since 2008. We

1 are a multifaceted company with a pipeline --
 2 pipeline division, Efficient Pipeline; a construction
 3 company, Efficient Construction; and Efficient
 4 Services of Ohio. We are a complete erosion control
 5 company. Notoriously a majority of our work has been
 6 with the energy companies, oil and gas, and probably
 7 50 percent of our work now is out of state.

8 We are in a position to transition to all
 9 of our erosion control devices and erosion control
 10 work into the State of Ohio and we support
 11 transitioning and we want to transition our work into
 12 the solar energy. If solar energy is on the horizon,
 13 then we want that work in the State of Ohio.

14 Without being too redundant on all the
 15 testimony that's been provided, that's our stance
 16 in -- on this project. That concludes my testimony.

17 ALJ SEE: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Drake.

18 Are there any questions from Chairman
 19 Randazzo, counsel for the Applicant, or the Bench?

20 Hearing none, thank you very much,
 21 Mr. Drake.

22 Our next witness is John Funk. If the
 23 host could promote Mr. Funk.

24 MS. FISCHER: Mr. Funk, you have been
 25 promoted to a panelist and unmuted.

1 MR. FUNK: Thank you. I'm afraid my
2 camera died.

3 ALJ SEE: Okay. Mr. Funk, if you would
4 raise your right hand.

5 MR. FUNK: Yes, ma'am.

6 ALJ SEE: Let me know when your right
7 hand is raised, sir.

8 MR. FUNK: Yes, ma'am. It's up.

9 ALJ SEE: Okay, Mr. Funk.

10 (Witness sworn.)

11 ALJ SEE: Please state and spell your
12 name for the record.

13 MR. FUNK: My name is John Funk, jewelry
14 Oscar hotel November, frank union nor king.

15 ALJ SEE: I'm sorry. Was that your
16 address, sir? I am getting a lot of feedback.

17 MR. FUNK: Address is 26050 State Route
18 207, New Holland, Ohio 43145.

19 ALJ SEE: Could you tell us if you live
20 or work in the project area.

21 MRI. FUNK: Yes, ma'am. I live just
22 about three-tenths of a mile north of the Atlanta
23 section.

24 ALJ SEE: Okay. Go ahead with your
25 testimony.

1 MR. FUNK: Well, actually I'm just
2 concerned. I'm a ham operator. I work from 10
3 meters clear up to 10.5 gigahertz. I'm wondering
4 what the clock speed on your converters for the solar
5 panels is going to be. Because if it's going to
6 interfere with my ham operation, I'm afraid I'm
7 against it.

8 ALJ SEE: Sir? Mr. Funk?

9 MR. FUNK: Yes, ma'am.

10 ALJ SEE: Tonight is not a question and
11 answer section. I am going to recommend that you
12 contact the Applicant or if you -- to get your
13 question answered directly, or if you have a question
14 about the process, you can contact the Board, and I
15 will provide you that number if you need it, but at
16 this point if you have some additional testimony to
17 offer, please go ahead.

18 MR. FUNK: Well, actually I'm curious.
19 There's farmland up by Deer Creek State Park that is
20 leased. Couldn't the project be built there?

21 ALJ SEE: Is that --

22 MS. PIRIK: Your Honor.

23 ALJ SEE: Yes, Ms. Pirik.

24 MS. PIRIK: Your Honor, I would just like
25 to offer on behalf of the Applicant, we would be

1 happy to talk with Mr. Funk and contact him if he
2 could maybe give you all his -- his either e-mail or
3 contact number, we would be able to reach out to him.
4 I know we don't want to do that formally on the
5 record, but if he has a phone number, and then we
6 could somehow get his contact, we would be happy to
7 talk with him about his question.

8 ALJ SEE: Mr. Funk, this is Greta See. I
9 am an AL -- an Administrative Law Judge with the Ohio
10 Power Siting Board. If it is okay with you, we will
11 provide counsel for the Applicant, Ms. Pirik, the
12 phone number that you provided us in association with
13 your testimony. Is that okay with you?

14 MR. FUNK: Yes, ma'am, it is.

15 ALJ SEE: Okay. I will provide -- see to
16 it that information is provided to Ms. Pirik so that
17 she can contact you and address your question.

18 MR. FUNK: Thank you very much.

19 ALJ SEE: Do you have any other testimony
20 to offer this evening?

21 MR. FUNK: No, ma'am, I do not.

22 ALJ SEE: Okay. Are there any questions
23 from counsel, the Bench, or Chairman Randazzo?

24 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: Your Honor, just a
25 comment from Sam Randazzo here. I just want to thank

1 Ms. Pirik for offering to reach out to Mr. Funk.
 2 He's got a technical issue related to his ham
 3 operations, and it should be readily -- it should be
 4 something that's readily answerable based upon the
 5 conversion -- the converters that are being used
 6 to -- at the solar arrays. So thank you, Ms. Pirik,
 7 for doing that.

8 MS. PIRIK: You're welcome.

9 ALJ SEE: As there is no questions for
 10 the witness, I would like to thank you, Mr. Funk.

11 I note that that concludes the
 12 individuals that registered for tonight's hearing.
 13 The Board appreciates your participation in the
 14 public hearing, and we also thank all of those who
 15 took the time out of their day to listen or to
 16 observe the hearing.

17 If there is nothing further, any words
 18 from the Chairman?

19 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: No. Again, your
 20 Honor, thank you for your efforts, both you and Judge
 21 Sandor, as well as the folks that are working behind
 22 the scenes to allow this virtual hearing to take
 23 place. It's an important part of the process, and we
 24 appreciate everybody's effort to share their views
 25 with us this evening. I just, as an ongoing

1 reminder, everybody that works at the PUCO or Power
2 Siting Board hears me say this quite often, do what
3 you can to help manage the risk of the virus spread
4 by following the commonsense protocols that we are
5 all very familiar with right now, and we will all be
6 better for it.

7 So other than that, have a great -- good
8 evening and we wish you all the best.

9 ALJ SEE: Thank you, Chairman Randazzo.

10 And with that, this hearing is adjourned.
11 Thank you all.

12 (Thereupon, at 7:17 p.m., the hearing was
13 adjourned.)

14 - - -

CERTIFICATE

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is
a true and correct transcript of the proceedings
taken by me in this matter on Thursday, October 22,
2020, and carefully compared with my original
stenographic notes.

Karen Sue Gibson, Registered
Merit Reporter.

(KSG-6979)

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Case No(s). 19-1880-EL-BGN

Summary: Transcript in the matter of the Atlanta Farms Solar Project, LLC hearing held on 10/22/20 electronically filed by Mr. Ken Spencer on behalf of Armstrong & Okey, Inc. and Gibson, Karen Sue Mrs.