

**From:** [Puco ContactOPSB](#)  
**To:** [Puco Docketing](#)  
**Subject:** comment for 20-1605-EL-BGN  
**Date:** Monday, November 16, 2020 7:17:56 AM

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**From:** Cheryl Counts <cmcounts@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 14, 2020 9:07 AM  
**To:** Puco ContactOPSB <contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov>  
**Subject:** Case Number 20-1605-EL-BGN

My name is Cheryl Counts, and I am a resident of Shawnee Township in Allen County. I am against the proposed Birch Solar Industrial Project.

I disapprove this project for the following reasons:

- 1) the danger of toxic substances like cadmium, cesium, and lead leaking into soil and water causing contamination of wells in nearby properties
- 2) the blight on the natural beauty of the local environment
- 3) the possibility of water run-off further exacerbating the drainage problems in the area
- 4) the devaluation of properties in the area
- 5) the destruction of natural habitat of wildlife
- 6) the disruption of the peaceful environment during years of construction
- 7) the lack of information disseminated to the public and residents directly affected
- 8) the evasive answers by company representatives to questions asked by residents
- 9) the stress, anxiety, and fear caused to members of this community

It makes no sense to me for a foreign-owned company using foreign-made materials to have control over American land to create power that will not benefit any of the people suffering any of the above-listed injuries.


I respectfully ask that you consider my objections to the Birch Solar Industrial Project when making your decision to approve or reject their proposal. .

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**From:** [Matthew Butler](#)  
**To:** [Puco Docketing](#)  
**Subject:** comment for 20-1605 [ ref:\_00Dt0GzXt.\_500t0cD35N:ref ]  
**Date:** Monday, November 16, 2020 7:56:20 AM

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No Birch Solar

-Elizabeth Jones 

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**From:** [Matthew Butler](#)  
**To:** [Puco Docketing](#)  
**Subject:** comment for 20-1605 [ ref:\_00Dt0GzXt.\_500t0cD3qO:ref ]  
**Date:** Monday, November 16, 2020 7:59:38 AM

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I purchased this property to raise my family in the country and give them what my husband and I never had. We both work hard for our money. We work hard for what we have. With this solar industrial plant going in around us it will 10000% negate the whole reason we purchased this property 2 years ago. We will be trapped surrounded all 4 sides by miles of solar panels. Our families; our children will be subjected to cancerous frequencies that these things generate. These solar fields belong on barges in the ocean or areas of desolate desert. Not populated residential areas. Please do not approve this. Please think of the hard working families and the innocent children this will effect. Please don't let that weigh on your conscience.



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**From:** [Puco ContactOPSB](#)  
**To:** [Puco Docketing](#)  
**Subject:** comment for 20-1605-EL-BGN  
**Date:** Monday, November 16, 2020 7:40:54 AM

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**From:** Cassie Thomas <cassiethomashorses@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 14, 2020 4:27 PM  
**To:** Puco ContactOPSB <contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov>  
**Subject:** Birch Solar Project, Case 20-1605-EL-BGN

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing to you today to voice my opposition to the Birch Solar Project that is set to consume ~2900+ acres of fertile farmland in Auglaize and Allen counties. This is very new to me and my family and is shocking to say the least.

Let me tell you about myself and my family and why this will be catastrophic to our area. My husband and I purchased our almost 12 acres in 2007 after searching for 6 years and just shortly after our first son was born. Our dreams were coming true after working and saving for 7 years we were finally able to buy our piece of paradise. We chose this area because of the beautiful land, wildlife and just plain awe inspiring views. We went through many struggles to get our home built including issues with installing a septic system due to the EPA and their regulations for clean water. Our septic ALONE cost us \$25,000+ to meet those requirements to protect the watershed. Imagine our surprise when we learned of this solar factory! How can this be? How can the EPA ALLOW this massive toxic project to release so much water, including any toxins from the panels, into our watershed! Not only that but how can these solar factories be permitted to encompass not only a huge amount of fertile farmland but WRAP around so many homes in this populated area-I am dumbfounded!

The wildlife here is nothing short of amazing. Eagles soaring overhead, hawks on trees and poles, deer roaming freely AWAY from the highways, foxes, owls, wild turkeys, endangered mussels in our creeks, the list goes on and on. Once the fences are up, migration of these animals will be severely limited and they will find themselves on our highways putting drivers and themselves at risk. This area is also sacred to the Hog Creek Shawnee Native Americans who settled here for 50 years. The heritage and history of this beautiful area is visited by many at Ft. Amanda park and other parks in this area and many come to enjoy the wildlife, beautiful creeks, rivers and countryside.

My family are farmers. Both my mom and my dad (and the generations before them) were raised on farms and those farms are still in our family. We are stewards of the land, protecting and cherishing this fertile soil that feeds America. When I see all of the permits for and the fights against these solar factories going on across our great country-Michigan, Indiana, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Kentucky, Wisconsin and so on, I can't help but wonder WHY? Why this fertile land? Why are they attacking those who feed America and the world? Why not somewhere that doesn't FEED America? Once this land is taken it will NOT be usable farmland in my lifetime nor in my children's lifetime. It will be

toxic, brown wasteland. I don't know about you but I like to be able to feed my family! Farmland IS NOT where these belong!

You see, here's the other kicker. My family has experienced great loss, 3 people to be exact, who were MURDERED by asbestos. Yes, that's right, I said MURDERED. I use that word because those who allowed asbestos to be used knew of the danger, but yet, had no regard to the health and lives of those who would be exposed to it (again, greed overruled those lives). That is one of my biggest concerns here-will our families' blood be on your hands for allowing this to happen? Will it be on the hands of Lightsource BP? Where are the safety studies for this large of an area surrounding this many family homes with EMF's and toxic runoff? Where are they? I'll tell you where they are-they don't exist. We will NOT be guinea pigs to fulfill big corporate's commitments to "green energy". We have a right to a safe home with clean water. We have a right to raise our children without fear of the EMF's that will be radiating directly on our homes or the fear of wondering if our water is safe. YOU have the right to tell Lightsource BP, "not there, find somewhere away from families and not on fertile farmland". I pray that you will open your hearts and your minds to the hundreds (maybe more) of people who will be FORCED to make a decision on whether they stay or go. Whether they throw away their dreams of a beautiful SAFE country life to protect the health of themselves and their children and will be forced to walk away and watch in sorrow as this area is turned into an industrial wasteland. This will forever destroy this large community and affect it only negatively-there are NO positives or benefits to this, the bad severely outweighs the good. Once you allow it to devastate so many lives and destroy our wildlife, your legacy will forever be tied to this, you will be responsible for the demise of this beautiful area. How do you want to be remembered?

It is a sad, sad world we live in-where corporate greed and evil can sneak in and ruin the lives of so many. I ask you this, would you buy a home surrounded by solar panels? Would you allow your son or daughter to purchase a home surrounded by solar panels to raise your grandchildren? I am a proud Patriot, a proud child of the land and a proud protector of our wildlife. I seek to leave this land better for future generations and for my children to know that I fought for the wildlife, for clean water and for their safety. For my children's children to have what I have today-safe water, wildlife and land to farm to feed America. I know that one can read this and wonder how I can say these things but not support "green energy". I will say this to them-This is not green energy; if in its place it leaves toxic fields, polluted waters, dead wildlife and toxic EMF's-there is NOTHING "green" about it.

Regards,

Cassie Thomas  
Wife and mother of 2

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**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

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**in**

**Case No(s). 20-1605-EL-BGN**

Summary: Public Comment Public Comment filed by Cheryl Counts, Cassie Thomas, Elizabeth Jones & ref:\_00Dt0GzXt.\_500t0cD3qO:ref, via website electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing