

From: [Puco ContactOPSB](#)
To: [Puco Docketing](#)
Subject: comment for 20-1605-EL-BGN
Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 7:50:07 AM

From: Cynthia Kennedy <cynkennedy79@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 8:48 PM
To: Puco ContactOPSB <contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov>
Subject: 20-1605-EL-BGN: Birch Solar Project

To whom it may concern:

It has been brought to my families attention that a solar farm development may potentially be in my area. My husband and I own almost 6 acres of land and this project will be directly adjacent to the back side of my wooded property. I have several concerns with this project and urge that all of these are considered and addressed.

I know there have been other solar farm projects in surrounding or near by counties. All of these other counties have a population that is significantly less then Allen County. Union County population is roughly 53,000, Madison County is 43,300 and Hardin County 32,000. Allen County has an astonishing population of roughly 105,500. Why such a massive project in such a densely populated area?

I am concerned about the property values of the homes in this area. With being directly adjacent to this solar farm I have seen several reports that indicate my property could be devaluated by up to 7%. I have also seen some people say this will not affect the value of my property. I find this hard to believe. If I were in the market for a new home and had to choose between 2 comparable properties with one being next to a solar farm and another having beautiful country views I know which one I am choosing and I think honestly that would be a majority decision. These panels will directly obstruct views from many near by homes, some surrounding on 3 or even all 4 sides of their property with a small access point. Let's face it these panels are not aesthetically pleasing. My husband and I built our home 7 years ago and when we did we never dreamed something like this could happen.

What about the wildlife displacement and endangerment? This project could adversely affect the habitat of 11 identified endangered and/or protected species/migratory birds. We also have a population of deer, wild turkeys and pheasants that will be displaced and have to migrate elsewhere.

Aircraft and Vehicle Travel - We are located in a direct path for life flight helicopters traveling to and from St. Rita's/Mercy Health Hospital. I have read a 2015 study from the FAA that indicated a solar farm could adversely affect pilots by producing a glare and causing impairment. What about vehicle travel? The panels are proposed to be adjacent to St. Rt 501 and Breese Rd. in Shawnee Township, both of these roads are highly traveled roads in our area. What about glare to drivers?

Flooding and Erosion - I have read many articles that mention a potential of increased surface water run off and erosion from solar farm sites affecting neighboring properties. How will this be mitigated?

What about possible environmental issues with solar farms causing significant pollution and health issues arising out of the "dirty electricity". I have read that the amount of EMF Radiation emitted from the panels is quite small but the real issue is the solar panel/photovoltaic system. The "dirty electricity" produced from these systems ultimately radiate EMF radiation into near by homes. The World Health Organization released material on this in August 2016 stating some people that had lower levels of EMF exposure at home reported symptoms of headache, anxiety, suicide, depression, nausea, fatigue and loss of libido. I have also read reports that indicated the EMF Radiation can be cancer causing. This is not a risk I want

to take with myself, my husband or my young children (myself and one of my children already suffer from severe migraines).

Have any archaeological sites or historic structures been taken into consideration? How will these be preserved?

My research shows these panels are very weather dependent. Even though energy can still be collected on rainy or cloudy days they are less efficient. In reference to the National Climatic Data Center, Ohio gets an average of 70 sunny days a year depending on location. A "sunny day" is defined of having 30% or less cloud cover. I do not understand how these #'s support this project.

From my understanding the power will not even stay local and the final project will only have a potential of about 10 jobs. In the end I personally do not see or understand how this can be beneficial for our area. Even though solar energy can be a good thing some sites are just not suitable for solar development and I strongly oppose this project.

Thank you.
Cynthia Kennedy

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Summary: Public Comment Testimony of Cynthia Kennedy electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing