

From: [Puco ContactOPSB](#)
To: [Puco Docketing](#)
Subject: comment for 20-1605-EL-BGN
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 8:20:37 AM

From: carlene odenweller <outlook_9EC79DDC42703C93@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 5:07 PM
To: Puco ContactOPSB <contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov>
Subject: Birch Solar Project Case Number 20-1605-EL-BGN

To Whom It Concerns,

Just a few short weeks ago I heard about a solar farm that was possibly going to be going in near me and taking up potentially a few thousand acres. I admit, I did not know much about solar farms but I was still disappointed to think anyone would give up beautiful, fertile farmland for a solar farm in this area. Farming is our largest industry in this area. So as I started to get more informed I became more and more concerned. Now I am to the point I am angry and incredibly sad. What I have been able to discover about these farms is that there are far more negative points than there are positive ones. Especially for the residents in the surrounding area. Not only will we be the ones left to look at these ugly facilities every day, the thought of what it is going to do to our wildlife and people's long term health is horrifying and totally unacceptable.

It is known that these fields of glass and metal are hard to maintain. We are told once it is all done there will possibly be 6 people employed to maintain all these acres. Is that even feasible?

But, let's talk about how these will affect human health and our wildlife. I will start with the wildlife as I am very partial to it. It is well known that this area of Allen County has abundant wildlife. Heavily populated with Deer, Geese, and wood ducks. A couple of years ago we finally started with a sighting here and there of wild turkeys and now we see them everywhere. And the Eagles! I spent the first 58 years of my life never seeing an Eagle and now we have them all over. Have you ever gone to your favorite spot in the country and found a fallen tree trunk to sit quietly on and just enjoy nature? It is amazing what you can see and witness.

Unfortunately, all those spots we have left in this area that we can still enjoy will be obsolete if this solar farm is approved. Our wildlife will have difficulty traveling thru the area. The deer, geese, turkeys and fox we love to watch do not just take up house in one area and stay there. They roam. They roam the fields to get from one woods to another. They roam to get from one water and food source to another. Us humans think we are so incredibly intelligent, but we are nothing compared to these amazing animals. First the farmers came in centuries ago and stole the land away from the natives. They chopped down the trees to plant their crops and then they passed that land on from one generation to another who increased the size of the farmland. Each generation chopped down more and more trees. They have raped the land around here to where there are very little woods left. Not only have they taken habitat away

from the wildlife they have dirtied our air by removing all the trees that create our clean air and oxygen. It makes my heart sick to think that these same family farms want to create this horrible environmental disaster for the rest of us. What will happen to the wildlife now? If all farmers take this mindset, who is going to feed the world? Fertile farmland needs to be used to produce crops, not solar power. I agree solar is important but select areas already deemed and zoned as industrial. Use the empty space in cities where you have block after block of abandoned buildings or nothing but massive empty concrete parking lots where businesses used to be.

Yes, they paint a rosy picture and talk about all the green space that will be around these fenced in areas of glass and metal but how does the hawk that is sitting in a tree or on the post swoop down into that mess and try to catch its food. The deer will be forced to move to new locations and find new paths when they roam at night. We will be pushing them to cross roads and risk them getting hit and people getting hurt. What kind of noise and light pollution will be generated that will cause our eagles, turkey and fox to migrate from this area or disrupt our sleep at night?

And if affecting our wildlife is not enough, how about the various ways this will affect people? Ohio sees on avg 72 clear days of sunshine per year. Don't you need sun to generate solar power? Why would you select a state that is already lacking in sunshine? It is common knowledge that the lack of greenspace and sun can affect a person's brain and health in a negative way. Now you want to take what remaining beauty we have in this state and turn it into a mass of glass and metal. These panels are toxic. [OSHA](#) describes cadmium and its compounds as highly toxic and exposure to this metal is known to cause cancer and targets the body's cardiovascular, renal, gastrointestinal, neurological, reproductive, and respiratory systems. This is a heavily populated area. It is not like other solar farms I have researched where they are located in remote areas with very minimal homes nearby. There are 100's of homes and families that will be directly affected by this proposed solar farm. This will impact generations to come. People have built their dream homes here. Some of them barely have the paint on the walls dry yet because their homes are so new. Their beautiful sunset views will now be obstructed with shiny glass panels and prison style fences. And now everyone is finding themselves, concerned about their health, their children and grand children's health. The family pet as well as the livestock and other wildlife will be drinking from the river and streams with us not knowing at all what kind of toxins are running into them. The reservoirs we get our drinking water from could be at risk one day.

We know BP Lightsource has much to gain monetarily by putting in this solar field. They will get a huge sum of money by way of their government grants, but what happens when they realize that these farms do not generate much power in dreary, gloomy Ohio? Or maybe they already do know that and they are only in it for the gov't handout.

We the people have NOTHING to gain from it. We will be the ones left with the industrial wasteland.

I adamantly oppose this project. It is a detriment to our environment, our health and our rural

way of life.

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Summary: Public Comment of Carlene Odenweller, via website, electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing