

**From:** [Matthew Butler](#)  
**To:** [Puco Docketing](#)  
**Subject:** comment for 20-1605 [ ref:\_00Dt0GzXt.\_500t0cEq01:ref ]  
**Date:** Thursday, November 19, 2020 8:43:01 AM

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing the board with concerns over the Birch Solar Project being proposed by LightsourceBP. I have attended the open house Lightsource BP hosted and also the Public meeting that they held last night. On numerous different subjects this company has already changed their position on multiple topics. I fully understand that this is a fluid model at this point, but I find it to be very concerning that we the citizens of this community are still not getting straight answers regarding this project. 1st and foremost is the issues surrounding the devaluation of our community. The best data available which is quite limited in nature especially for a project of this scale. The available data shows a solar farm with a size range from 10 MW up to 100MW . This data shows that a potential 7% decrease in property value could be assumed for those within 100' extending out to 3 miles having minimal impact. The studies conducted have been in minimal populated areas of the country and not having homes situated directly in the middle of the solar array. based upon these studies and the project being proposed one could come to the conclusion that at triple the facility size in the study and homes being encapsulated by these panels the devaluation of ones property could easily assume a 25% devaluation. This would devastate the community in any area. For many people they have spent their entire lives accumulating this kind of equity in their homes. Many people in this area rely on this as their means of retirement savings. Respectfully the data is very incomplete in this arena but it is very safe to assume the properties located directly involved in this would suffer negative impacts.

2nd point is that if 2600 acres is to be taken out of ag production and most likely more to follow due to many other farmers in the area hearing of the potential payments for these leases, I can't help but wonder the thought process here. These lands although capable of returning directly back into ag production the farmers whom are participating in these leases most likely will not be around at the end of the lease their children whom are mostly in their 20's and 30's will themselves be nearing retirement age so now the education, heritage, and years of experience working the ground will be completely removed from our society this burden will fall upon my unborn grandchildren at this point. These farmers have spent years acquiring their vast properties driving up the cost of the ground and making it impossible for a newcomer to even consider getting into farming. Now looking out for their own benefits and selfishness in regards to hoarding the ground they own will completely remove the possibility for our youth to someday return this precious ground to ag production. Meanwhile driving down all of the surrounding areas land values. This deal is purely good for few and terrible for masses.

3rd our wildlife and their habitat will severely be impacted LightsourceBP is saying that while the panels themselves will only cover 900 acres of ground they will be fencing the entire project with the exception of the existing woodlands. Although I disagree with many in that there are numerous potential benefits for our birds, insects, and smaller critters fences will not hold most of them back from the lushes vegetation but our deer herd in Shawnee Township was already decimated in the last year by EHD (ie. Blue Tongue Disease) which although this is a very common issue during a drought there were 144 reported dead or sick in our area. And that number is only what was reported. Now add all the fences and pattern changes into that and that these herds will now have limited travel corridors and the reduction in crops that give

our herd their health and an area high in hunter population how long until the deer are on the verge of endangerment. Or the complete opposite herd explosion could very well occur by the removal of so many areas from hunting. Assuming that LightsourceBP has it in their lease that you cannot hunt within their leases. This could easily go either way neither of which is a good option. As far as some of our smaller critters I believe that they are going to thrive but with them thriving so will the nuisance animals. The raccoons, opossums, coyotes, ect. will continue to become more and more issues. most of the fur bearing animals in our area already thrive due in part to the fur market and also due to the decline in the hunting over the last decade.

In closing I feel as though the scale of the project being Proposed by LightsourceBP is quite the opposite of being a responsible business model. While most are not against alternative energy and the need going forward I do believe that there are many places that would be better suited for a project of this size and that there are a lot less impactful sites available than in Shawnee Township which has a population of roughly 13,000 residents whom close to 1/3rd-1/2 will directly be impacted by this solar project. No one with a good conscience can say that they would purchase or build a home in or near this project given a choice between this project and what we as residents already have. 

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Summary: Public Comment of Concerned Consumer, via website, electronically filed by  
Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing