

From: [Matthew Butler](#)
To: [Puco Docketing](#)
Subject: comment for 20-1605 [ref:_00Dt0GzXt._500t0cFz9m:ref]
Date: Monday, November 23, 2020 12:11:23 PM

I am writing to you to voice my displeasure regarding the Birch Solar project (Case #: 20-1605).

The introduction of a 2,600 acre solar farm will have lasting effects on the environment. Please consider the following:


- The wildlife population that inhabits this area, and the effects this will have on their ability to escape predators, find a safe place to sleep, and their ability to get food. The introduction of chain link fence with barbed wire will prevent nearly all non-avian wildlife from passing through.
- The drainage issues that will be created by the destruction of hundreds of miles of field drainage tile. I understand that the county main drainage tiles must be maintained, but what about the tiles that feed into the main? Adjacent landowners will end up with drainage issues due to destruction of neighboring tiles.
- In the event that Lightsource BP is unable to continue operating the solar farm, how will the solar panels be removed from the farmland? These panels are manufactured with (and contain) toxic chemicals that could be released into the soil. Will they be required to secure a bond in order to ensure proper removal and recycling?
- Lightsource BP claims that there will not be a loss of property value due to solar panel installation. You cannot, and will not, ever convince me that someone would want to purchase a house that is surrounded by solar panels and chain link fence. This absolutely will have a negative impact on property values and the ability to sell one's property.
- The population density is remarkably different for Allen County compared with the other Ohio counties with existing or proposed projects. Population density for Allen is 259.5 square mile. Population densities for Ohio counties with approved utility scale solar facilities range 32.1-91.0 square mile. Across the nation large solar facilities are in low-density population areas. The Birch project stands out as being an outlier considering the large size of the project relative to the population density.
- Lightsource BP is considered unethical by their own employees. On [glassdoor.com](#) a Lightsource BP employee says, "This company is very much 'do as I say/coats on the back of chairs' it's incredible that in a renewable business that such an archaic view to leadership is taken. Legal council isn't listened to, new ideas are rejected and when compliance is mentioned the phrase 'we won't be doing things by the book' was used." Landowners have a right to use their land as they see fit provided it negatively impacts their neighbors.
- The Lightsource BP has no experience operating a solar facility this size in an area as populated as Allen County. This is particularly distressing when you factor in that the leader of Lightsource BP was behind a large solar plant, Crescent Dunes, that closed as a result of mismanagement and failed technology. Taxpayers remain on the hook for \$537 million in loan guarantees.

This part of Allen & Auglaize County was clearly chosen because it would benefit Lightsource BP, not the community. Lightsource BP is looking to take advantage of a community and take advantage of a power infrastructure already in place. This is a perfect example of corporate greed, while being masked as a benefit to the community. There are

plenty of other places that could benefit from renewed development, but not productive farmland.

I plead with you not to approve the Birch project.

Sincerely,
Althea Wellman

Homeowner next to the project 

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Summary: Public Comment Public Comment of Althea Wellman via website electronically filed by PUCO Docketing on behalf of Docketing