

BEFORE THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD

**In the Matter of the Application of
Yellowbud Solar, LLC for a Certificate
of Environmental Compatibility and
Public Need.**

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Case No. 20-972-EL-BGN

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF MARK J. BONIFAS

Q.1. Please state your name, title and business address.

A.1. My name is Mark J. Bonifas. I am a Civil Engineering Practice Leader/Principal at Hull & Associates, Inc. My business address is 6397 Emerald Parkway, Suite 200, Dublin, OH 43016.

Q.2. What are your duties as a Civil Engineering Practice Leader/Principal?

A.2. As the Civil Engineering Practice Leader, I manage civil engineering, renewable energy and land development projects in multiple states providing creative strategies to secure funding, meet regulatory requirements and streamline the due diligence, design, permitting, and construction phases of a project. I manage multi-disciplinary teams, interact with local and state agencies, and lead environmental assessments, remedial actions, and permitting and engineering design for infrastructure at large commercial and industrial sites. I am part of our business development team that focuses on the energy, environmental and infrastructure markets. Our clients include public and private clients in the energy, healthcare, retail, office, recreational, ecological restoration, commercial, mixed-use, and industrial markets. I also manage our Dublin, Ohio engineering group and provide technical engineering support for Hull's other offices.

1 **Q.3. What is your educational and professional background?**

2 **A.3.** I have a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the Ohio State University
3 and have been practicing engineering as an engineering consultant for 32 years. I have
4 been a registered Professional Engineer in Ohio for 27 years and I am also a registered
5 Professional Engineer in 15 other states. I have been performing civil engineering
6 services on renewable energy projects for over ten years.

7 **Q.4. On whose behalf are you offering testimony?**

8 **A.4.** I am testifying on behalf of the Applicant, Yellowbud Solar, LLC (“Applicant”)
9 in support of its application filed in Case No. 20-972-EL-BGN.

10 **Q.5. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

11 **A.5.** The purpose of my testimony is to describe studies my firm undertook on behalf
12 of the Applicant, to summarize the results of those studies and provide my assessment of
13 traffic impacts of the Yellowbud Solar Project (“Project”). I will also address Condition
14 22 as well as Condition 23 in the Joint Stipulation filed on January 6, 2021, which I have
15 reviewed.

16 **Q.6. Please describe the studies that you and your firm undertook on behalf of the**
17 **Applicant.**

18 **A.6.** Hull undertook a Route Evaluation Study of the Project to evaluate the anticipated
19 impact of the construction of the Project on roads and bridges and any needed
20 improvements prior to construction or likely repairs needed following construction. The
21 Route Evaluation Study also evaluated the need for any transportation-related permits and
22 potential impact on local traffic. A copy of that study is included in the Application as
23 Exhibit M.

Q.7. What were the conclusions of the Route Evaluation Study?

A.7. It concluded that sufficient infrastructure exists via Interstate, State, and local roads to construct the facility. While a final delivery route has not been finalized, it is likely that delivery of Project components to the Project Area will be from the north by way of US 23 to SR 56 to SR 104 that is adjacent to the east side of the Project Area. An alternate route would be from the south by way of US 35 to SR 104. Within the Project Area, state, county and township roads and new private gravel access roads will likely be used to deliver equipment and materials. The Route Evaluation Study concluded that all the roads reviewed can be utilized for equipment delivery and construction traffic with the exception of Layton Road, due to its short length and the fact that it is not adjacent to the Project Area. Additionally, Ebenhack Road is an aggregate road and can be used for equipment delivery and construction traffic. However, due to its aggregate surface and shallow culverts, this road may require improvements prior to use and will likely require additional maintenance compared to roads with asphalt pavement.

The Route Evaluation Study also concluded that the vast majority of the vehicles will be of legal weight and dimensions. Some limited components such as switchgear or transformers for switchyards and substations may require the use of oversize/overweight vehicles. In such an event, the Applicant will obtain special hauling permits for these oversize/overweight vehicles from the Ohio Department of Transportation or from the applicable local authority.

Finally, the Route Evaluation Study concluded that the travelling public is likely to experience, at most, minor delays and inconveniences during the construction of the Project. Because this is an agricultural area, heavier use of roadways by local farmers

1 during planting and harvest seasons will occur. Prior to construction, transportation
2 management plan will be prepared that describes the procedures that will be used to
3 manage traffic during construction, and it will be shared with local law enforcement,
4 schools and local landowners.

5 **Q.8. What is your overall assessment of the potential traffic impacts of the Yellowbud**
6 **Solar Project?**

7 **A.8.** Based on the results of the Route Evaluation Study and my experience, I would not
8 expect the construction or operation of the Project to have a negative effect on the travelling
9 public. I would also not expect the construction or operation of the Project to have a
10 negative effect on the condition of the local roadways including Ebenhack Road which as
11 I noted previously may require some improvements and additional maintenance because it
12 is an aggregate road.

13 **Q.9. Do you support Condition 22 and 23 in the Joint Stipulation?**

14 **A.9.** Yes, both conditions are in the public interest. These conditions will ensure that
15 the Applicant obtain all necessary transportation permits prior to commencing
16 construction. The Applicant will also coordinate with related agencies, such as the county
17 engineer, the Ohio Department of Transportation, local law enforcement, and health and
18 safety officials, regarding the construction and operation of the Project. Finally, the
19 Applicant will also develop a transportation management plan and submit it to Staff prior
20 to the preconstruction conference. These conditions will ensure minimal delays with
21 regard to local traffic related to the construction and operation of the Project.

22 **Q.10. Does this conclude your direct testimony?**

23 **A.10.** Yes, it does.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The Ohio Power Siting Board's e-filing system will electronically serve notice of the filing of this document on the parties referenced in the service list of the docket card who have electronically subscribed to this case. In addition, the undersigned certifies that a courtesy copy of the foregoing document is also being served upon the persons below via electronic mail this 6th day of January 2021.

/s/ Anna Sanyal
Anna Sanyal

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Summary: Testimony Direct Testimony of Mark Bonifas electronically filed by Ms. Anna Sanyal on behalf of Yellowbud Solar, LLC