

**BEFORE  
THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD**

In the Matter of the Application of :  
Yellowbud Solar LLC for a Certificate of : Case No. 20-0972-EL-BGN  
Environmental Compatibility and Public :  
Need for the Yellowbud Solar Project in :  
Pickaway County and Ross County, Ohio. :

**PREFILED TESTIMONY  
OF  
ROBERT HOLDERBAUM  
ON BEHALF OF THE STAFF OF THE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO  
POWER SITING DEPARTMENT**

**Staff Exhibit \_\_\_\_\_**

**January 8, 2021**

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

2 A. My name is Robert Holderbaum, and my business address is 180 East  
3 Broad Street, Columbus OH 43215.  
4

5 2. Q. By whom are you employed and what is your position?

6 A. I am employed by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) as a  
7 Utility Specialist II within the Power Siting Department.  
8

9 3. Q. Please summarize your educational background and work experience.

10 A. I hold a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science Pre-Law (2009)  
11 and a Master of Science degree in Environmental Policy & Planning  
12 (2012), both from Ohio University.  
13

14 I have been employed by the PUCO since 2012. I have worked almost  
15 exclusively on power siting activities during that time. I have provided  
16 analysis for over 175 cases before the Ohio Power Siting Board (Board).  
17 My responsibilities typically include application review and the preparation  
18 of analysis for major utility facility applications in Ohio, including  
19 accelerated filings such as Letters of Notification and Construction Notices.  
20 I have been the lead analyst for more than 50 applications for generation  
21 facilities, substations, and transmission line applications. I have also been

1 responsible for the preparation of staff reports and coordination of Staff  
2 review and field work for major utility facilities.

3  
4 4. Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?

5 A. I served as the overall Staff Project Lead for the investigation that resulted  
6 in the Staff Report of Investigation (Staff Report) that was filed November  
7 30, 2020 in this docket. I managed the Staff investigation and preparation  
8 of the Staff Report in this case. In addition, as a signatory party, Staff  
9 supports the Joint Stipulation that was filed in this docket on January 6,  
10 2021.

11  
12 5. Q. What kind of case is this?

13 A. Yellowbud Solar, LLC (“Applicant”) proposes to construct, own, and  
14 operate a 274MW solar-powered generating facility located in Pickaway  
15 County and Ross County, Ohio.

16  
17 6. Q. Please summarize Staff’s investigation that was conducted in this case.

18 A. Staff’s investigation included reviewing the application, conducting site  
19 visits to the proposed facility location, acquiring additional information  
20 from the Applicant, obtaining input from state agencies that compose the  
21 Board along with other relevant state and federal agencies, and preparing a  
22 Staff Report of Investigation that presents Staff’s analysis, conclusions, and

1 recommendations. As a result of Staff's investigation, Staff is  
2 recommending that the Board approve the application, subject to the 24  
3 conditions that are presented in the Stipulation.  
4

5 7. Q. What impacts did Staff review for the project in arriving at this conclusion?

6 A. Staff reviewed the ecological impacts, residential impacts, cultural  
7 resources impacts, impacts to roads and bridges, impacts to agricultural  
8 lands and commercial properties, geological impacts, financial impacts,  
9 noise impacts, safety impacts, and the aesthetic impacts of the project.  
10

11 8. Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

12 A. Yes, it does. However, I reserve the right to submit supplemental testi-  
13 mony, as new information subsequently becomes available or in response  
14 to positions taken by other parties.

## PROOF OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing **Prefiled Testimony of Robert Holderbaum**, submitted on behalf of the Staff of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Power Siting Department, was served via electronic mail, upon the following parties of record, this 8<sup>th</sup> day of January 2021.

/s/Werner L. Margard

**Werner L. Margard**

Assistant Attorney General

### Parties of Record:

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Summary: Testimony Prefiled Testimony of Robert Holderbaum on Behalf of the Staff of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Power Siting Department electronically filed by Mrs. Kimberly M Naeder on behalf of OPSB