

**BEFORE  
THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD**

In the Matter of the Application of Hecate :  
Energy Highland 4 LLC for a Certificate : Case No. 20-1288-EL-BGN  
of Environmental Compatibility and :  
Public Need for the New Market Solar :  
Project in Highland County, Ohio. :

**PREFILED TESTIMONY  
OF  
ROBERT HOLDERBAUM  
ON BEHALF OF THE STAFF OF THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD**

**Staff Exhibit 2**

**January 22, 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

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

4 A. I served as the overall Staff Project Lead for the investigation that resulted in the Staff Report of Investigation (Staff Report) that was filed January 4, 2021 in this docket. I managed the Staff investigation and preparation of the Staff Report in this case. In addition, as a signatory party, Staff supports the Joint Stipulation that was filed in this docket on January 22, 2021.

5. Q. What kind of case is this?

A. The Applicant proposes to construct, own, and operate a 100MW solar-powered generating facility located in Highland County, Ohio.

6 Q. Please summarize Staff's investigation that was conducted in this case.

A. Staff's investigation included reviewing the application, conducting site visits to the proposed facility location, acquiring additional information from the applicant, obtaining input from state agencies that compose the Board along with other relevant state and federal agencies, and preparing a Staff Report of Investigation that presents Staff's analysis, conclusions, and recommendations. As a result of Staff's investigation, Staff is recommending that the Board approve the application, subject to the 23 conditions that are presented in the Stipulation.

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

45 A. Staff reviewed the ecological impacts, residential impacts, cultural  
46 resources impacts, impacts to roads and bridges, impacts to agricultural  
47 lands, commercial properties, geological impacts, financial impacts, noise  
48 impacts, safety impacts, and the aesthetic impacts of the project.

49

50 8. Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

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

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**Case No(s). 20-1288-EL-BGN**

Summary: Testimony of Robert Holderbaum electronically filed by Mrs. Tonnetta Y Scott on behalf of PUCO