

**From:** [Puco ContactOPSB](#)  
**To:** [Puco Docketing](#)  
**Subject:** comment for 20-1605-EL-BGN  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 10, 2021 9:09:58 AM  
**Attachments:** [Birch Solar.docx](#)

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**From:** Cynthia Kennedy <cynkennedy79@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 9, 2021 2:45 PM  
**To:** Puco ContactOPSB <contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov>  
**Subject:** 20-1605-EL-BGN: Birch Solar Project

To whom it may concern:

I wanted to reach out to the Power Siting board again with concerns and comments I have pertaining to the proposed Birch Solar Project. I have reached out previously very early on and have attached a copy of my questions and concerns along with research I had found that I previously submitted.

I am still very much concerned about this project and maybe more so after some of the public and online meetings about this proposed solar farm. I feel Lightsource BP has been somewhat transparent and disorganized in this process. In example, the online meeting held on November 20th was somewhat of a disaster to say the least. Many people had trouble connecting to the meeting and there was some lag during the meeting which made it very hard to follow. I had personally reached out asking for a copy of the PIM presentation so I could follow along. I did reach out the day of the presentation around noon so I will admit it was a bit late. However, I did not receive a response back from Shanelle with Lightsource BP until the 24th. I understand people are busy hence my late request but if there is an online public meeting happening on the 20th I feel all emails (pertaining to the meeting) should have been addressed before that meeting. My late request came because I was busy with LIFE, this is however the companies job/project. In my line of work there are some things that need addressed immediately or need completed in a timeframe and this would not have been acceptable. Even, if Shanelle could not have addressed my email personally maybe someone from Lightsource BP could have because in the end I just wanted a copy of the presentation. I might also add a note that these meeting were not exactly scheduled at very convenient times for most (Friday night at 6pm).

I have heard that adjacent landowners would be contacted to discuss exactly how this would affect and look from my property. I believe I am an adjacent landowner, as the maps I have seen come to the back of my wooded property line. Although, I may be wrong because I believe these maps have changed somewhat through this process. Other than the initial mailing that was sent out from Lightsource BP I have not received anything from them.

Now how I personally feel about this project, I feel OH is selling out. As an OH resident and taxpayer I can honestly say it does not feel like you have MY best interest in mind. I feel like you are catering to these companies. I feel like you need to make these companies prove themselves. Why are you letting them take the cheap way out? Quit catering to the big energy companies and think about your state and the people of your state. We have what they want so make them do it the right way!

The area proposed for this massive project is very densely populated. There are not many studies that provide statistics on things like environmental changes, property values or health effects. As I am not opposed to solar energy, I am opposed to a solar farm of this magnitude in an area that is highly populated. These farms should start in less densely populated areas where less people are affected and actual studies can be done.

I agree our country and earth needs sustainable renewable energy options, but what about the amount of fossil fuels it takes to get these solar fields and wind farms up and going? Why not use brown space for solar, on top of industrial buildings, especially the buildings and facilities that will be using this power? Is it because of cost for the companies that want to install these farms? Is it less expensive to install on

essentially flat land and the proximity to the substation? If so, I will say again it feels like OH is catering to the energy companies and not keeping our best interest in mind.

What are the benefits of solar vs. geothermal? Although I have not had time to do much research on this I am finding that Geothermal plants require less land to produce a MW of power than a solar farm. Therefore, Geothermal is less evasive to surrounding properties and wildlife. This may be a better solution for densely populated areas. I also feel geothermal is more productive than a solar farm because they churn out electricity 24 hours a day no matter what the weather is. OH is not exactly a sunshine state. The biggest advantage I found for a solar farm vs. a geothermal plant is installation cost. This is great for the energy companies trying to profit from this but is not necessarily in my best interest.

When I look at the Power Siting Board website and see the number of proposed solar projects in OH it really concerns me. What will OH look like in the future? I keep thinking of the song "America the Beautiful", what will happen to our "Amber Waves of Grain"? Our fields are plentiful of corn, beans and of course that amber wave of grain/wheat.

So my plea to you is slow down, this is too much too fast. This project is too large for this area. Don't put all of your eggs in one basket and research on which areas are best for wind, solar or geothermal energy. Just because solar is the big up and coming energy source does not mean it is the best energy source. It does not mean it is the best for our people and land. If this project is approved we have to deal with it for the next 30, 40 or even 50 years. Even longer for the land to become useable farm land again. What if something better comes along or technology improves. With ever changing technology even the solar panels will improve over time. Waiting 5 or 10 years for these projects is not a long time in the grand scheme of things. When you are making your final decision I hope you take to heart all of the comments that have been made for this project rather against or for it. I hope you remember them "Amber Waves of Grain" and help keep America Beautiful.

Thank you.  
Cynthia Kennedy  
12255 National Rd  
Cridersville, OH 45806

To whom it may concern:

It has been brought to my families attention that a solar farm development may potentially be in my area. My husband and I own almost 6 acres of land and this project will be directly adjacent to the back side of my wooded property. I have several concerns with this project and urge that all of these are considered and addressed.

I know there have been other solar farm projects in surrounding or near by counties. All of these other counties have a population that is significantly less then Allen County. Union County population is roughly 53,000, Madison County is 43,300 and Hardin County 32,000. Allen County has an astonishing population of roughly 105,500. Why such a massive project in such a densely populated area?

I am concerned about the property values of the homes in this area. With being directly adjacent to this solar farm I have seen several reports that indicate my property could be devaluated by up to 7%. I have also seen some people say this will not affect the value of my property. I find this hard to believe. If I were in the market for a new home and had to choose between 2 comparable properties with one being next to a solar farm and another having beautiful country views I know which one I am choosing and I think honestly that would be a majority decision. These panels will directly obstruct views from many near by homes, some surrounding on 3 or even all 4 sides of their property with a small access point. **Let's face it these panels are not aesthetically pleasing.** My husband and I built our home 7 years ago and when we did we never dreamed something like this could happen.

What about the wildlife displacement and endangerment? This project could adversely affect the habitat of 11 identified endangered and/or protected species/migratory birds. We also have a population of deer, wild turkeys and pheasants that will be displaced and have to migrate elsewhere.

Aircraft and Vehicle Travel - We are located in a direct path for life flight helicopters traveling to and from St. Rita's/Mercy Health Hospital. I have read a 2015 study from the FAA that indicated a solar farm could adversely affect pilots by producing a glare and causing impairment. What about vehicle travel? The panels are proposed to be adjacent to St. Rt 501 and Breese Rd. in Shawnee Township, both of these roads are highly traveled roads in our area. What about glare to drivers?

Flooding and Erosion - I have read many articles that mention a potential of increased surface water run off and erosion from solar farm sites affecting neighboring properties. How will this be mitigated?

What about possible environmental issues with solar farms causing significant pollution and health issues arising out of the "dirty electricity". I have read that the amount of EMF Radiation emitted from the panels is quite small but the real issue is the solar panel/photovoltaic system. The "dirty electricity" produced from these systems ultimately radiate EMF radiation into near by homes. The World Health Organization released material on this in August 2016 stating some people that had lower levels of EMF exposure at home reported symptoms of headache, anxiety,

suicide, depression, nausea, fatigue and loss of libido. I have also read reports that indicated the EMF Radiation can be cancer causing. This is not a risk I want to take with myself, my husband or my young children (myself and one of my children already suffer from severe migraines).

Have any archaeological sites or historic structures been taken into consideration? How will these be preserved?

My research shows these panels are very weather dependent. Even though energy can still be collected on rainy or cloudy days they are less efficient. In reference to the National Climatic Data Center, Ohio gets an average of 70 sunny days a year depending on location. A "sunny day" is defined of having 30% or less cloud cover. I do not understand how these #'s support this project.

From my understanding the power will not even stay local and the final project will only have a potential of about 10 jobs. In the end I personally do not see or understand how this can be beneficial for our area. Even though solar energy can be a good thing some sites are just not suitable for solar development and I strongly oppose this project.

Thank you.  
Cynthia Kennedy

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities**

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Summary: Public Comment of Cynthia Kennedy, via website, electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing