

**BEFORE THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD**

<b>In the Matter of the Application of Ross County Solar, LLC for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need.</b>	) ) ) ) )	<b>Case No. 20-1380-EL-BGN</b>
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**DIRECT TESTIMONY OF MARK J. BONIFAS**

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**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. ("Hull"). 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/Principal, 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 services  
6 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, Ross County Solar, LLC (“Applicant”),  
9 in support of its Application filed in Case No. 20-1380-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 of  
12 the Applicant, to summarize the results of those studies, and to provide my assessment of  
13 traffic impacts of the Ross County Solar Project (“Project”).

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

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

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

1       **A.7.**   It concluded that sufficient infrastructure exists via Interstate, State, and local roads  
2       to construct the facility. While a final delivery route has not been finalized, it is likely that  
3       delivery of Project components to the Project Area will be from the north by way of US 35  
4       to SR 753 to SR 41 that is adjacent to the east side of the Project Area. An alternate route  
5       would be from the south by way of US 50 to SR 41. Within the Project Area, county and  
6       township roads and new private gravel access roads will likely be used to deliver equipment  
7       and materials. The Route Evaluation Study concluded that all the roads reviewed can be  
8       utilized for equipment delivery and construction traffic with the exception of Rolfe Road,  
9       due to its condition and width. If needed, Rolfe Road could be used for Project  
10      development with improvements.

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

17     Finally, the Route Evaluation Study concluded that the traveling public is likely to  
18     experience, at most, minor delays and inconveniences during the construction of the  
19     Project. Because this is an agricultural area, heavier use of roadways by local farmers  
20     during planting and harvest seasons will occur. Additionally, a Traffic Control Plan that  
21     describes the procedures that will be used to manage traffic during construction was  
22     included as part of Exhibit M of the Application. Prior to construction, the Traffic Control

1 Plan will be finalized and submitted to Ohio Power Siting Board Staff, and it will also be  
2 shared with local law enforcement, schools, and local landowners.

3 **Q.8. What is your overall assessment of the potential traffic impacts of the Project?**

4 **A.8.** Based on the results of the Route Evaluation Study and my experience, I would not  
5 expect the construction or operation of the Project to have a negative effect on the traveling  
6 public. I would also not expect the construction or operation of the Project to have a  
7 negative effect on the condition of the local roadways.

8 **Q.9. Will the Applicant be required to obtain any transportation permits?**

9 **A.9.** Yes. Although very few are anticipated, the Applicant will obtain all necessary  
10 transportation permits prior to commencing construction. The Applicant will also  
11 coordinate with appropriate authorities regarding necessary traffic control during  
12 construction.

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

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

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

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