

FILE

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2021 APR 21 AM 11:18

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B6W

PUCO TO THE OHIO SITING BOARD

MY NAME IS KEN W. NIESE

ADDRESS 5824 ST. RT. 108

OTTAWA, OHIO 45875

I LIVE SOUTH OF MILLER CITY
BETWEEN ST. RT. 613 AND MILLER CITY.

IN THE AREA OF PROPOSED

POWEL CREEK SOLAR FARM. JUST
SOUTH OF THIS MY WIFE AND I WHERE I

LIVE IS THE INTERSECTION OF
STATE ROUTE 108 AND STATE ROUTE

613, THIS IS A HIGHLY TRAVELED
INTERSECTION DUE TO THE FACT

OF THE TOWN TO THE NORTH
AND SCHOOL KIDS USING IT TO

GET TO THE SCHOOL IN TOWN, ALONG
WITH REGULAR OUT SIDE TRAFFIC.

I'M SENDING A DIAGRAM OF THE
INTERSECTION. DUE TO CARS FAILING TO
STOP PERIODICALLY, THE CARS FROM
ST. RT. 108 NEED TO STOP SO NOT
TO GET IN A COLLISION WITH THE
CAR RUNNING THE STOP SIGN ON
ST. RT. 613.

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WITH SOLAR PANELS INSTALLED
THE CAR FROM ST. RT. 108
WILL NOT HAVE THE VISIBILITY
TO STOP. I'M PROPOSING A
MINIMUM OF 400 FEET FROM
CENTER OF INTERSECTION WEST
OF ST. RT. 108 AND EAST OF
S.R. 108. THEN 400 FEET SOUTH
OF S.R. 613 STARTING FROM CENTER
OF THE 2 ST. RT. ROADS.

I'M ALSO SENDING AN ARTICLE
FROM LIMA NEWS FEBRUARY 6, 2021,
LIGHTSOURCE HAS PROPOSED CHANGING
THINGS TO ACCOMMODATE THE PEOPLE
LIVING AROUND PROPOSED SOLAR FARM.
THIS ARTICLE DEALS WITH THE PEOPLE
LIVING AROUND THE SOLAR FARM AS
WE ARE. THEY ARE ADDRESSING THE
CONCERNS OF AESTHETICS AND
PROPERTY VALUES.

I WOULD APPRECIATE THE BOARD
TO CONSIDER THE THINGS FOR
THE PEOPLE LIVING AROUND
POWELL CREEK SOLAR FARM.

THANK YOU

Kim W. Hesel

3-24-2021

↑ TO MILLER CITY
NORTH

WEST

SOLAR PANELS

1 ACRE

MILLER CITY ROUTE 108 DITCH

CENTER POINT

1 ACRE

STATE ROUTE 613

EAST

→

SOLAR PANELS

SOUTH
↓

LEGEND
2-SQUARE BLOCK
IS 50 FEET SQUARE

Minimum
wage \$15
OPINION • 4A



Frigid 20°/9°
Frigid 15°/7°
Cloudy and frigid 19°/14°



a '64
Corvette
DRIVER'S SEAT • 1D

The Lima

*****CAR-RT LOT**R 002
0828315 03/08/2021
KENNETH NIESE
5824 STATE ROUTE 108
OTTAWA, OH 45875-9676

Breaking news at limaohio.com

Issue 37, Volume 137

Saturday, February 6, 2021 • \$1

Proposed solar farm scales back footprint



Map courtesy of Lightsource bp

A combined map shows acreage that was originally intended to be part of the Birch Solar project in pink, vs. the revised proposed acreage in orange. The solar field generating 300 megawatts and covering 1,410 acres is proposed for southern Allen County and northern Auglaize County.

By J Swygart
jswygart@limaohio.com

SHAWNEE TOWNSHIP

— Lightsource bp has made several revisions to its plan to build a 300-megawatt solar farm in parts of southern Allen and northern Auglaize counties, according to information released Friday by the company.

Chief among those changes to the proposed Birch Solar, which company officials say were made after receiving input from stakeholders, farmers, government officials and community members, is a reduction in the overall footprint of the project.

The total amount of acreage now deemed necessary for

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See past coverage about Birch Solar at LimaOhio.com/tag/birchsolar.

the farm, including all solar panels, has been reduced by the company from its original 2,600-acre planned plot to a maximum of 1,410 acres, with no ability to expand in the future.

Lightsource bp officials also announced the project will now feature required 300-foot setbacks from any solar panels visible from Breese Road or from any home within the project area. The setbacks will

be part of any permit application and will be maintained as green space during the project life, officials said.

Chanel Montana, director of development for Lightsource bp, said during a telephone interview Friday that the company has worked hard to make the project attractive to the local citizenry, despite organized opposition to the project.

An organized group, Against Birch Solar LLC, has been actively seeking to turn away the project, citing fears of reduced property values, environmental concerns and other objections. That group

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Footprint

From page 1A

will hold another meeting from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, although it's reached its capacity for in-person viewing and can be viewed online instead. Invited guests include Ohio Senate President Matt Huffman and Ohio House Speaker Bob Cupp.

"I think most people do want us there, and it's our responsibility to tweak the layout to accommodate the concerns of the community," Montana said. "In the last couple of weeks, we've done extensive environmental studies and melded that together with feedback we've gotten from the community to make a much more consolidated project."

She said the project will be formally submitted to the Ohio Power Siting board next week with the updated footprint.

Proposed changes to the project also include the erection of a 6-foot high cedar post farm fence around the project, with 5-foot evergreen trees (8 feet tall

at maturity) and shrubs planted outside the fenced-in areas.

Montana said the aesthetic enhancements were added to the project in response to "requests from the community surrounding the project to screen and set back the project from home and roads and to minimize changes to the natural environment. Our approach is to work with the local community and neighbors to ensure that we develop and construct our projects as a good neighbor and long-term member of the local community."

Other revisions touted by the company include:

- The creation of pollinator habitat to boost local biodiversity and foster wildlife habitat.

- A \$500,000 community fund for Allen and Auglaize Counties for use in connection with various programs to be recommended by the community.

- An enhanced Neighboring Landowner Benefit Program to provide financial compensation to homeowners whose properties border leased land or whose homes are within 500 feet of the project's solar panels.

Updates

From page 1A

One death was in Allen County, involving a 95-year-old woman, according to Allen County Public Health. She died

Jan. 29 after an onset and admission date of Jan. 24.

The other death was in Auglaize County, where a man older than 80 died Jan. 26 after an onset date of Oct. 31. He was not hospitalized.

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See more local coverage about COVID-19 at [LimaOhio.com/tag/coronavirus](https://limaohio.com/tag/coronavirus).