

From: [Butler, Matthew](#)
To: [Puco Docketing](#)
Subject: comment for case numbers 20-1814-EL-BGN, 21-0041-EL-BGN, 18-1024-EL-BGN, 18-1334-EL-BGN, 20-1288-EL-BGN, 20-1680-EL-BGN, 21-0005-EL-BGA
Date: Thursday, May 20, 2021 4:36:25 PM

I am writing this as a concerned citizen of Highland County regarding the multiple solar energy projects that have been proposed in the Highland and Clinton county areas:

- Dodson Creek (20-1814-EL-BGN)
- Palomino Solar (21-0041-EL-BGN)
- Willowbrook Solar Farm (18-1024-EL-BGN)
- Highland Solar Farm (18-1334-EL-BGN)
- New Market Solar (20-1288-EL-BGN)
- Yellow Wood Solar (20-1680-EL-BGN)
- Willowbrook Solar Amendment (21-0005-EL-BGA)
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Our community is finding out about these projects and are concerned as it will negatively impact the livelihood, food production, landscape and property value of us, our friends and neighbors and family. I am against these solar power plants going in. Why can't the solar panels be put in Cincinnati or Columbus on top of buildings, abandoned lots or above parking lots instead of taking fertile farm land and stopping the growth of food for consumption. It also ruins the land and impacting the people that live in the area for many decades to come. I am concerned about the reduction of food growth/production, health and well-being impacts from the solar panels, wildlife habitats, and traffic and safety. The construction jobs are not being filled by local people and the long-term jobs are minimal.

There are many unsolved problems with solar energy panels. For instance, solar panel fields cause blight to vegetation, disrupt wildlife, and are absolutely toxic to the environment before and after they become waste. They are made with cadmium, which is a carcinogen and leaches into soil and groundwater, according to researchers from the Institute for Photovoltaics in Stuttgart, Germany. They found that "contrary to previous assumptions, pollutants such as lead or carcinogenic cadmium can be almost completely washed out of the fragments of solar modules over a period of several months, for example by rainwater." There are people in the area that are still utilizing well water as their main/only source of water, animals and birds could also be affected as they could drink contaminated water. What happens during hunting season if these animals become sick or contaminated and then are consumed by local hunters and their families. Solar panels not only consume thousands of acres of viable farmland, what happens when they no longer can function and they become toxic waste? What are we supposed to do then? Will we be paying through taxes to have something removed that we never wanted here in the first place?

If it is so important to have these solar panels here, why isn't the company buying the land instead of leasing it? Could it be because they know the land will be worth much less in the future if the company goes belly up and the land will be littered with solar panels, concrete, cadmium, miles of wire and other items?

Take into consideration the jobs and revenue lost due to solar fields taking the place of thousands of acres of farming/agriculture? It's not just the farmers that are impacted, but many other businesses in the area that support the farmers and where the farmers spend their money. The businesses that will be negatively impacted by the solar fields, directly and indirectly, are innumerable. Agriculture is undeniably a big industry that creates a huge, important ripple effect to businesses and the quality of life within a community and beyond. Is it worth all those jobs disappearing for approximately 4 new permanent jobs per project? Also, are there any requirements

that the people hired for the permanent positions have to be local to where the solar power plants are being built or will people be commuting from far away?

I am also concerned about my property value dropping significantly because I will be living in the area of solar power plants. Those surrounded directly by the solar power plants will feel much more impact than I do, but the area will suffer the consequences. There are others around the solar power plants that have already been built or planned to be built that have tried but are not able to sell their homes so they could move away from them. Once people find out that there is a potential for a solar power plant to come in the area, they no longer are interested in the homes. This potentially affects credit ratings, buying power, lifestyles, etc., in addition to health effects and being an eyesore.

Ohio is an agricultural state that averages 177 days of sunshine per year, which is less than 50% of the time. Not an ideal site for solar energy. I have also seen lots of straight-line wind here that damages buildings, trees, power lines and other items. What impact will that have on the solar panels?

Having grown up on a farm in Nebraska, and lived in the Cincinnati area for nearly 25 years, I moved out in the country a few years ago to be out in the country where I can enjoy peace and quiet, nature and the beautiful views, not to have the views taken away and live near an ugly solar power plant that is dangerous to the area and my health.

Is there a limit to how much ground solar companies can consume in one township, county or state? There are a lot of solar power plants potentially going up within relatively small area.

Sincerely,
Norma Ogard
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Summary: Public Comment of Norma Ogard, via website, electronically filed by Docketing
Staff on behalf of Docketing