

From: [Butler, Matthew](#)
To: [Puco Docketing](#)
Subject: comment for 21-0669
Date: Wednesday, June 30, 2021 6:42:37 PM

After having researched the proposed South Branch Solar Project located in Washington Twp., Arcadia, OH, I cannot in good conscience support its' installation. I do support renewable energy when done in a responsible manner, but I cannot support installation at this location and am seriously concerned about ultimate outcomes as a result of this solar farm and its unsubstantiated projected results. This solar farm will literally be in my back yard and those of my neighbors, and will stretch as far as the eye can see, for the next 30+ years. Would you want to look out your home's windows and see black shiny surfaces for miles and miles? We're a rural farming community and truly appreciate seeing the fields grow and produce. Many of us have made substantial investments in our properties – as they are – with a view of surrounding fields.

This solar farm will replace and possibly destroy generational and operational farm ground that encompasses hundreds of acres. As we are simply a bordering land owner, we have no documents/guarantees that this new property owner/leasee will fulfill their "promise" to create the proper barriers surrounding these now classified as utility scale solar facilities. Will they appropriately address pollination, erosion and drainage within and around the affected areas during this "farms" lifespan? These factors weigh heavily on surrounding property owners. Possible flooding and reduced property values are just a couple of probable outcomes for this "farms' " neighbors.

Why do these developers have so little faith in this system to decommission it at the end of the solar panels' life span rather than replace them and continue its use? How can this project be deemed "necessary" if it isn't sustainable after the initial life span? I understand that a bond is to be retained to cover cost of decommissioning site but realistically, that's a long time down the road – anything can happen. Who owns this bond? We could be left with hundreds of non-agricultural allocated acres owned by a company that may or may not even exist anymore. This land will be not be producing crops for generations to come. I see destruction of land, lower of property values, and a reduced crop production. Some company will reap massive incentives, tax breaks, and profits for "going green", but does not trust its own technology enough to plan to maintain the site beyond the first installation. What if they abandon the land after they have made their millions off of it? The use of this technology is so new no one has seen the results of land after panels are no longer in use as most solar farms are only in the first few years of operation. Will it be desolate land unable to farm for years? Will it be sold off to the highest bidder in pieces? I don't see anything but negative impacts for local residents from the installation of this solar farm.

This is a huge company, buying land in rural America to make a profit. This is not really about renewable energy. This farm may not even produce enough energy to offset the energy used to produce all the steel, coal, and quartz used to make the panels for the farm itself. Not to mention the days, weeks, months that no sun is shining, so there would be zero MW production. I just don't trust the numbers presented. Yes, it may create some jobs, but these jobs can't be guaranteed to "local" residents. This contract will go to the lowest bidder, which may not bring any new jobs to the local population. Lower utility bills are not expected as we don't even know where the power generated from the solar panels is even going. The developing company and its investors will see the profits from sold MWs.

Please help us keep our community as it is - A small agricultural community. Let these large solar farms occupy otherwise non-productive land that would have no negative impact on people and places that we hold dear. There must be other options available to this company.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my input. I wish this step was sooner in the process.

Mr. & Mrs. Guy Johnson

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

7/1/2021 11:26:49 AM

in

Case No(s). 21-0669-EL-BGN

Summary: Public Comment of Mr. & Mrs. Guy Johnson, via website, electronically filed by
Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing