

From: [Puco ContactOPSB](#)
To: [Puco Docketing](#)
Subject: public comment for 20-1605-EL-BGN
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 9:10:29 AM

Please file this version instead of the earlier version. Thank you, Matt

From: Jaime Spring
Sent: Monday, August 9, 2021 8:44 PM
To: Butler, Matthew
Subject: Case No: 20-1605-EL-BGN: Birch Solar Project.

I am writing to express my opposition to Birch Solar project's application with the Ohio Power Siting Board.

My family lives in Shawnee Township and strongly opposes the building of solar panels in the area. They have well water and do not want unregulated solar panels poisoning their water supply. The area is also very susceptible to flooding and removing the water-absorbing crops will exacerbate the problem. An abundance of wildlife lives in the area and blocking their habitat would devastate their populations. Build solar elsewhere.

1. Although not against the responsible use of solar generation this proposed development is stripping away local rights of a large amount of citizens and has a high likelihood of negatively impacting health/safety/property values of those hundreds living close by, disturbing the habitats of endangered and/or protected species of wildlife in west central Ohio, also impacting the habitats of local deer, wild turkey, fox, coyote, etc., and presents an increased threat to existing localized flooding issues.
2. Although only protecting a few local farmers' property rights a couple of which whom will not even live near and providing them tax free livelihoods in the near future; this development will have a dire effect on other Allen and Auglaize County residents' property rights, value, and safety who have no voice.
3. Providing clean cost effective energy for Ohio should be a goal, however the massive footprint of solar and wind must be studied further and there is indeed no rush to the finish line as energy has been provided for 100s of years with resources that are clean, safe, and have a lesser footprint Solar should be further evaluated for its siting not on green farmlands, but brownlands, rooftops, existing vacant industrial areas.
4. Strengthening the local economy with increased annual revenue and possibly building a brand new Shawnee school may sound very good up front, but what is the dire effects down the road when no business or residents will want to move to Shawnee and Logan Township as there will not be any land left to attract said future residents; how does attracting major business to our area happen if 2,000 to 3,000 acres are already occupied by solar panels. What wealthy doctors or hospital employee is going to look on a google map and see acres and acres of solar panels and want to move to Shawnee Township?

5. This does NOT create jobs - possibly the 400 transient workers for 18 months who only need to provide a water bill to prove they are "Ohio domiciled", and that is not even required until after construction is over; who work long shifts, and go home on the weekends and do not stimulate the local economy as suggested Only 3-4 are permanent for the lifetime, when for instance a Honda of America as in Anna, Ohio could sit on a fraction of the acreage and employ 2800 employees over 35 years.

6. Lightsource bp has been nowhere transparent and has provided falsehoods and false commitments to listening and working with community members. And although their certificate might seem fancy and 1,000s of pages long - there are many shortcomings in their studies, on water, sound, fencing, ecological protections, setbacks, the list goes on. The developer, Lightsource BP / Birch Solar 1 LLC, has a suspect record and history and is hoping to profit tremendously from this project and then walk away, while our local schools and governments receive disproportionate revenue as the years progress.

7. The ecological and environmental impact is widely unknown - and the effect on the flora, fauna, bats, birds especially the growing population of Eagles (4 pairs who have been sighted within the perimeter) who prey in those existing fields that will now be covered in glass is highly suspect.

8. The water and soil conservation of the area should be widely considered as a PRIORITY!

9. Typically, industrial solar complexes such as this facility being proposed are not directly adjacent to densely populated areas. If constructed, our community will be bound on our northern limits by a petrochemical refinery, to the east by industrial parks and interstate, and now to the south by this 2,500 acre development. Such a development is typically not constructed next to such densely populated areas such as our community. Property values will decrease (5%-20%) resulting in fewer public services which could potentially kill the community we have worked diligently to have.

I respectfully ask for your thorough study and thorough appreciation of all of the aforementioned. Your committees' rejection of a project of this magnitude near this community should be your only decision.

Jaime Spring Shawnee Township Allen County

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Summary: Public Comment of Jaime Spring, via website. electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing