

**BEFORE
THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD**

In the Matter of the Application of **Union Ridge**)
Solar, LLC for a Certificate of Environmental)
Compatibility and Public Need for a Solar) Case No. 20-1757-EL-BGN
Facility Located in Licking County, Ohio.)

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF

MARK J. BONIFAS

on behalf of

Union Ridge Solar, LLC

September 2, 2021

1 **Q.1 Please state your name, title, and business address.**

2 **A-1.** My name is Mark J. Bonifas. I am a Principal Engineer at Hull & Associates, Inc. (“Hull”).

3 My business address is 6397 Emerald Parkway, Suite 200, Dublin, OH 43016.

4 **Q.2 What are your duties as a Principal Engineer?**

5 **A-2.** As a Principal Engineer, I manage civil engineering, renewable energy and land
6 development projects in multiple states providing creative strategies to secure funding,

7 meet regulatory requirements, and streamline the due diligence, design, permitting, and

8 construction phases of a project. I manage multi-disciplinary teams, interact with local and

9 state agencies, and lead environmental assessments, remedial actions, and permitting and

10 engineering design for infrastructure at large commercial and industrial sites. I am part of

11 our business development team that focuses on the energy, environmental, and

12 infrastructure markets. Our clients include public and private clients in the energy,

13 healthcare, retail, office, recreational, ecological restoration, commercial, mixed-use, and

14 industrial markets. I also provide technical engineering support for Hull’s Dublin, Ohio

15 and other offices. I have managed multiple environmental and engineering studies that

16 support Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) applications for wind and solar projects and have

17 managed design and construction activities for wind and solar projects that have been

18 approved by OPSB.

19 **Q.3 What is your education and professional background?**

20 **A-3.** I have a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the Ohio State University and have

21 been practicing engineering as an engineering consultant for 33 years. I have been a

22 registered Professional Engineer in Ohio for 28 years and I am also a registered

1 Professional Engineer in 15 other states. I have been performing civil engineering services
2 on renewable energy projects for over ten years.

3 **Q.4 Have you testified previously before the Ohio Power Siting Board?**

4 **A-4.** Yes.

5 **Q.5 On whose behalf are you offering testimony?**

6 **A-5.** I am testifying on behalf of the Applicant, Union Ridge Solar, LLC, in support of its
7 Application filed in Case No. 20-1757-EL-BGN.

8 **Q.6 What is the purpose of your testimony?**

9 **A-6.** The purpose of my testimony is to describe studies my firm undertook on behalf of the
10 Applicant, to summarize the results of those studies, and to provide my assessment of
11 traffic impacts of the Union Ridge Solar Project (“Project”).

12 **Q.7 Please describe the studies you and your firm undertook on behalf of the Applicant.**

13 **A-7.** Hull undertook a Route Evaluation Study of the Project to evaluate the anticipated impact
14 of the construction of the Project on roads and bridges and any needed improvements prior
15 to construction or likely repairs needed following construction. The Route Evaluation
16 Study also evaluated the need for any transportation-related permits and the potential
17 impact on local traffic. A copy of that study is included in the Application as Exhibit K.

18 **Q.8 What were the conclusions of the Route Evaluation Study?**

19 **A-8.** It concluded that sufficient infrastructure exists via Interstate, State, and local roads to
20 construct the Project. While a final delivery route has not been finalized, it is likely that
21 delivery of Project components to the Project Area will be from the south by way of I-70
22 to SR 310 to US40 to Watkins Road or York Road. Within the Project Area, county and
23 township roads and new private gravel access roads will likely be used to deliver equipment

1 and materials. The Route Evaluation Study concluded that all the roads reviewed can be
2 utilized for equipment delivery and construction traffic.

3 The Route Evaluation Study also concluded that the vast majority of the vehicles
4 transporting construction equipment, materials, and workers are expected to be of legal
5 weight and dimensions. Some limited components such as switchgear or transformers for
6 switchyards and substations may require the use of oversize/overweight vehicles. In the
7 event oversize/overweight loads are necessary for construction, the Applicant will obtain
8 special hauling permits for these oversize/overweight vehicles from the Ohio Department
9 of Transportation or from the applicable local authority.

10 Finally, the Route Evaluation Study concluded that the traveling public is likely to
11 experience, at most, minor delays and inconveniences during the construction of the
12 Project. Because this is an agricultural area, heavier use of roadways by local farmers
13 during planting and harvest seasons will occur. Additionally, a Traffic Control Plan that
14 describes the procedures that will be used to manage traffic during construction was
15 included as part of Exhibit K of the Application. Prior to construction, the Traffic Control
16 Plan will be finalized and submitted to Ohio Power Siting Board Staff, and it will also be
17 shared with local law enforcement, schools, and local landowners.

18 **Q.9 What is your overall assessment of the potential traffic impacts of the Union Ridge**
19 **Solar project?**

20 **A-9.** Based on the results of the Route Evaluation Study and my experience, I would not expect
21 the construction or operation of the Project to have a negative effect on the traveling public.
22 I would also not expect the construction or operation of the Project to have a negative effect
23 on the condition of the local roadways.

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

2 **A-10.** Yes, it does. However, I reserve the right to offer supplemental testimony if necessary.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing Testimony was served upon the parties of record listed below this 2nd day of September 2021 *via* electronic mail.



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Summary: Testimony of Mark J. Bonifas on behalf of Union Ridge Solar, LLC electronically filed by Teresa Orahod on behalf of Dylan F. Borchers