

**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

ROB CORZATT

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 Rob Corzatt. I am a Senior Project Manager for Hull & Associates, LLC,
3 located at 6397 Emerald Parkway, Suite 200, Dublin, Ohio 43016.

4 **Q.2 What are your duties as a Senior Project Manager?**

5 **A-2.** In my role as Senior Project Manager, my primary focus is on management of site
6 assessment, remediation and redevelopment projects within Hull's Environmental Services
7 Division. The majority of the projects I have managed, or am currently managing, are
8 being completed within the Ohio Voluntary Action Program (VAP). These projects have
9 included clients within both the public and private sectors. As Senior Project Manager, I
10 have directed the completion of both assessment and remedial work plans, demolition and
11 remediation of the project site, and contributed as lead author for the No Further Action
12 letters prepared for approximately one dozen sites across the State of Ohio. I also provide
13 senior level direction and review of the hydrogeological and geological desktop reviews
14 prepared in support of Hull's wind and solar projects with various energy clients.

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

16 **A-3.** I received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from The Ohio State University, College of Arts &
17 Sciences at the end of Spring Quarter 1988. My major was in Geology. I have been
18 employed in the environmental consulting industry since 1988. I joined Hull & Associates
19 in April 2002. As noted in my response to Question 2 above, I am currently a Senior Project
20 Manager and manage projects for our Environmental Services Division. In my 33 years as
21 an environmental consultant, I have conducted, and then supervised, multiple
22 hydrogeological investigations in a variety of hydrogeological settings throughout the State
23 of Ohio. My experience includes investigations for the siting of solid waste landfills,

1 alternative energy projects and redevelopment of former industrial properties through the
2 Ohio VAP.

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

4 **A-4.** Yes. In August 2020, I provided expert testimony for the Emerson Creek Wind Farms
5 Project (Case No. 18-1607-EL-BGN) on behalf of Firelands Wind, LLC. I provided expert
6 testimony on the suitability of construction of the project as it pertained to the
7 hydrogeology of the project area.

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

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

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

12 **A-6.** The purpose of my testimony is to describe the information presented in Hull's January 22,
13 2021 Geology and Hydrogeology Report, Union Ridge Solar Project, Licking County,
14 Ohio ("Report"), which is Exhibit O to the Application for Certificate of Environmental
15 Compatibility and Public Need filed on March 26, 2021 ("Application"). I am prepared to
16 testify regarding groundwater, surface water and hydrogeological conditions as they may
17 pertain to the Project.

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

19 **A-7.** Hull was contacted by Environmental Design & Research, Landscape Architecture,
20 Engineering, & Environmental Services, D.P.C. in September 2020 to provide a proposal
21 to perform a desktop study of the hydrogeology and geotechnical/geological conditions of
22 the proposed Union Ridge Solar Project. Hull's proposal was submitted by Mr. Cory
23 Schoonover, Project Manager and Mr. Trent Hathaway, P.E., Project Manager. I was asked

1 by the management team for the Project to provide senior overview of the hydrogeologic
2 portion of the desktop report. I did not personally conduct the research described in the
3 report or perform the site reconnaissance referenced in the Report. However, I provided
4 guidance on the selection of resources available for review and supervised completion of
5 the hydrogeological portion of Hull's desktop study. I provided a technical and editorial
6 review of the hydrogeological portions of the Report while Mr. Hathaway directed the field
7 reconnaissance and provided review of the geotechnical portions of the report.

8 **Q.8 In your opinion and based on your experience, what will be the impact of the Project**
9 **on public and private water supplies due to construction and operation of the facility?**

10 **A-8.** The summary presented in the Report was based on hydrogeologic and geologic references
11 for the Project area and a field reconnaissance of the potential sites from publicly available
12 rights-of-way. Based on our previous experience with other solar projects, it was assumed
13 that the panel foundations would be relatively shallow in depth below the existing ground
14 surface (less than 10 feet). Water well drilling reports obtained from the Ohio Department
15 of Natural Resources (ODNR) and the property owner well surveys included in the Report
16 indicated that the depth to completed wells in the project area was highly variable. The
17 majority of the wells were installed within sand and/or gravel deposits at depths of 45 feet
18 or more below ground surface.

19 Information provided by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency ("Ohio EPA")
20 indicates there are two Source Water Protection Areas ("SWPAs") located within the
21 southern portion of the Project area. Although there are specific agricultural, commercial,
22 and industrial activities that are prohibited within SWPAs, Hull's review of the regulatory
23 programs indicated that construction of the solar turbines would not be a restricted activity

1 within the limits of a surface water or groundwater SWPA. Best management practices
2 during construction and operation of the solar panels and support structures should result
3 in minimal potential impact to the SWPAs. Therefore, construction of the proposed solar
4 panels and support structures is not likely to have a negative impact on public or private
5 water supplies within the Project boundary.

6 **Q.9 In your opinion and based on your experience, what will be the impact of the Project**
7 **on stormwater flows during construction?**

8 **A-9.** Information obtained from the ODNR and Federal Emergency Management Agency
9 (FEMA) and included in the Report showed there are 100-year floodplains areas mapped
10 within the southern and western portions of the Project Area surrounding the South Fork
11 Licking River. The Applicant has confirmed that the Facility will not be constructed within
12 a 100-year floodplain. All areas within the Project Area, but outside the 100-year
13 floodplain, are designated by FEMA as an Area of Minimal Flood Hazard. Construction
14 and operation of the Facility is anticipated to necessitate only minor grading that would not
15 result in significant changes to the topography within the Project Area. Therefore,
16 construction and operation of the Facility is not anticipated to result in any significant
17 negative impact to surface water or storm water flow in the Project Area.

18 **Q.10 What permits will the Project be required to obtain related to stormwater**
19 **management during construction?**

20 **A-10.** In compliance with the Ohio Water Pollution Control Act, dischargers of storm water from
21 construction activity are authorized by the OEPA to discharge storm water from the site to
22 waters of the state in accordance with the General Permit Authorization for Storm Water
23 Discharges Associated with Construction Activity Under the National Pollutant Discharge

1 Elimination System (“NPDES”), Ohio EPA (“OEPA”) Permit No. OHC000005, effective
2 April 23, 2018 (“General Permit”). Construction projects disturbing one or more acres of
3 land, or that disturb less than one acre but are part of a larger plan of development, need to
4 apply for this coverage under the General Permit. To meet NPDES requirements, a
5 qualified engineer will utilize the final Project layout to develop a Storm Water Pollution
6 Prevention Plan (“SWPPP”). The SWPPP will identify potential sources of pollution that
7 may reasonably be expected to affect the quality of storm water discharges associated with
8 construction activities. If applicable, the SWPPP will clearly identify all activities that will
9 be authorized under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act and, through coverage under the
10 General Permit, will meet the requirements of an antidegradation review. The SWPPP will
11 also describe and ensure the implementation of best management practices that reduce
12 pollutants in storm water discharges during construction.

13 **Q.11 Did you identify the presence of karst topography in the Project Area?**

14 **A-11.** Based on information obtained from the ODNR, Division of Geological Survey, there are
15 no known or suspected karst features present within the Project Area. Although direct
16 observations were restricted due to the presence of unharvested crops, karst topography
17 was not identified during the reconnaissance of the Project Area.

18 **Q.12 Does this conclude your direct testimony?**

19 **A-12.** 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 Rob Corzatt on behalf of Union Ridge Solar, LLC electronically filed by Teresa Orahod on behalf of Dylan F. Borchers