

**BEFORE
THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD**

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

SUPPLEMENTAL DIRECT TESTIMONY OF

GORDON PERKINS

on behalf of

Union Ridge Solar, LLC

September 13, 2021

1 **Q-1. On whose behalf are you offering this supplemental testimony?**

2 **A-1.** I am testifying on behalf of the Union Ridge Solar, LLC (the Applicant or Union Ridge),
3 which is seeking to develop the proposed Union Ridge Solar facility (the Project) in
4 Harrison Township, Licking County, Ohio.

5 **Q-2. What is the purpose of your supplemental testimony?**

6 **A-2.** The purpose of my supplemental testimony is to provide additional context and support
7 regarding the information set forth in the Visual Resource Assessment (VR), filed as
8 Exhibit S (Visual Resource Assessment and Mitigation Plan) to the Application for a
9 Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need, filed by Union Ridge in Case
10 No. 20-1757-EL-BGN (“the Application”) on March 26, 2021.

11 Specifically, I am now also providing additional explanation and visual simulations and
12 details regarding the earthen berm that Union Ridge has committed to installing in the
13 Covington Lane area near York Gate Estates. And I will provide additional details
14 regarding the enhanced vegetating screening employed in the Project design.

15 **Q-3. Please describe the earthen berm to be included on Covington Lane in York Gate**
16 **Estates.**

17 **A-3.** The earthen berm proposed by Union Ridge Solar, LLC would be placed on the north side
18 of the terminus of Covington Lane on the border of an agricultural field that abuts the
19 residences. The berm would be between four and six feet tall and would consist of a
20 maximum slope of one on four or 25 percent to allow for management and mowing of the
21 berm by the Applicant. The berm occupies approximately 80 to 90 feet of space between
22 the residences on Covington Lane and the proposed PV panels and perimeter fence and
23 extends approximately 1,100 feet in an east to west direction. On its own, the berm creates

1 an undulating, naturalistic screen that mimics the types of landforms present in newly
2 designed and constructed residential developments. It accomplishes the intent of
3 complementing the existing landscape and significantly screening portions of the proposed
4 PV panels. In addition, the installation of evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs provide
5 year-round screening and visual interest. At the time of insulation, the proposed berm and
6 vegetative screening will be very effective in screening and softening views toward the
7 facility, and once established will increase in effectiveness and contribute a substantial
8 natural buffer often seen as a benefit to wildlife and community aesthetics, as illustrated in
9 the visual simulations provided in Attachment 1 to this testimony.

10 **Q-4. Please describe the enhanced vegetative screening included in the Project design since**
11 **the Local Public Hearing.**

12 **A-4.** Since the development of the VRA, the Applicant has included a number of additional
13 mitigation measures that will effectively reduce and minimize the potential for visual
14 impacts to public resources and local residents. These include the development of planting
15 buffers that give preference to evergreen planting material to provide year-round screening,
16 the selection of material that has been shown to succeed in this region/environment, and
17 the use of a smaller panel arrangement. In concert, these measures increase the
18 effectiveness of the planting material and they decrease the visual dominance presented by
19 the project significantly.

20 **Q-5. Does this conclude your supplemental testimony?**

21 **A-5.** Yes. However, I reserve the right to update this supplemental testimony and/or provide
22 additional supplemental testimony to respond to any further testimony, reports, and/or
23 evidence submitted in this case.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing Testimony was served upon the parties of record listed below this 13th day of September 2021 *via* electronic mail.



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Summary: Text Supplemental Direct Testimony of Gordon Perkins on behalf of Union Ridge Solar, LLC electronically filed by Teresa Orahoad on behalf of Dylan F. Borchers