

**From:** [Butler, Matthew](#)  
**To:** [Puco Docketing](#)  
**Subject:** 20-1605-EL-BGN public comment  
**Date:** Friday, September 17, 2021 1:44:11 PM

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Subject: 20-1605-EL-BGN Birch Solar 1

Dear Mr Butler and OPSB Members,

Let me start by stating that I am not against solar although I do not believe that it is a true and tested method of generating long term power for the community. I am of the belief that money is the driver for the solar initiatives with the support of government subsidies given to these companies that makes them viable. Most studies acknowledge that without these subsidies, these companies will struggle with profitability which is why they change hands so frequently.

Solar might be profitable long term but that remains to be seen over the next ten plus years. Solar might be appropriate in a brown field location that is not so impactful to the community that lives in the immediate area like Shawnee and Logan townships. Homes will be impacted, values will decrease, families will move and we have no idea of the water and physical impact that all of this might bring to the community. We were told in our initial meeting that the panels will be shipped from China which still makes them suspect to impacting our water supply since they contain precious metals which are know to be harmful. On top of that, they are being produced by captive workers.

I agree that the land owners do have a voice in their land but there needs to be given consideration to how they are impacting the vast majority of the population in the immediate area. Although the proposed location is in fertile farmland, the thought of eliminating prime producing farmland needs to have significant consideration as well as the impact to the immediate families that are located in this area. The farmers do have options of cash renting or even selling their land to assist their financial situation. The proposed site is where it is only due to the substation's location which again brings you back to the \$\$\$\$\$. Please come to this area and observe the proposed location which is very close to residential and then do your pro vs con analysis.

There are must and wants in any detailed decision analysis in determining what is the best path to follow. I hope you will afford the community those judgement decisions in the future.

You made the correct decision in Seneca County and I hope you do the same for this project.

Please consider rejection of this BP requested solar field in Auglaize and Allen Counties.

Thank you,

Michael Fry

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**Case No(s). 20-1605-EL-BGN**

Summary: Public Comment of Michael Fry, via website, electronically filed by Docketing Staff  
on behalf of Docketing