

BEFORE THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD

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In the Matter of the :
Application of Marion :
County Solar Project, LLC :
for a Certificate of :
Environmental :
Compatibility and Public : Case No. 21-36-EL-BGN
Need to Construct a :
Solar-Powered Electric :
Generation Facility in :
Marion County. :

- - -

PUBLIC HEARING

before Daniel Fullin, Hearing Examiner, at the Marion
County Fairgrounds, Evers Arena, 220 East Fairground
Street, Marion, Ohio, called at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday,
September 28, 2021.

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APPEARANCES:

Dickinson Wright, PLLC
By Christine M.T. Pirik, Esq.
150 East Gay Street, Suite 2400
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On behalf of the Marion County
Solar Project.

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INDEX

- - -

Witness	Page
Ray Davis Direct Testimony	8
Connie Thomas Direct Testimony	11
Lynn Thomas Direct Testimony	11
Jeremy Welch Direct Testimony	12
Matt Russell Direct Testimony	14
Dominic Straquadine Direct Testimony	15
Jeremy Hinkle Direct Testimony	20
Carl Neutzling Direct Testimony	21
Mike Huffman Direct Testimony	23
Gus Comstock Direct Testimony	24
Jim Bauer Direct Testimony	26
David Carnes Direct Testimony	27
Scott Stover Direct Testimony	29

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- 3
- 4
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1 Tuesday Evening Session,
2 September 28, 2021.

3 - - -

4 ALJ FULLIN: The Ohio Power Siting Board
5 has called for hearing at this time and place Case
6 No. 21-36-EL-BGN which is the Matter of the
7 Application of Marion County Solar Project, LLC for a
8 Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public
9 Need to Construct a Solar-Powered Electric Generation
10 Facility in Marion County.

11 My name is Dan E. Fullin, F-U-L-L-I-N,
12 and I'm the Administrative Law Judge employee of the
13 Board that's assigned to hear this case, and I would
14 also now like to have appearances on behalf of the
15 Applicant and any other parties of record in this
16 case.

17 MS. PIRIK: Thank you, your Honor. On
18 behalf of the Marion County Solar Project, the law
19 firm of Dickinson Wright by Christine Pirik, 130 East
20 Gay Street, Columbus, Ohio, 43215.

21 ALJ FULLIN: Thank you. On behalf of the
22 Farm Bureau.

23 MR. ARNOLD: Thank you, your Honor, my
24 name is Gale, G-A-L-E, Arnold, A-R-N-O-L-D. I'm not
25 an attorney. I'm here to observe for our attorneys

1 and so will not be asking any questions, but please
2 let the record show I'm here to observe.

3 ALJ FULLIN: Thank you. And before I go
4 on, Miss Pirik, did you have anything else you wanted
5 to say in terms of introduction of you, the company
6 or the people that are here on behalf of the company,
7 anything that you want to say about that at this
8 point?

9 MS. PIRIK: Thank you, your Honor. I'd
10 like to introduce Sean Flannery. If anyone has any
11 questions afterwards, I know Sean would be more than
12 willing to answer any questions that anyone would
13 have.

14 ALJ FULLIN: Thank you. And I'd also
15 like to add that we have two people besides myself
16 that are here from the Ohio Power Siting Board. Both
17 of them are over there by the doorway, Matt Butler on
18 my left and John Colley. Again, they're here on
19 behalf of the Staff of the Board, and although the
20 purpose of today's hearing is to give public
21 testimony and it's not in a question and answer
22 format, to the extent members of the public do have
23 questions, after we're done or if we take a break or
24 during a break you could approach those two for
25 questions that you might have of them as Board

1 members in relation to this case.

2 We're about to get started, but I wanted
3 to also add that this is a two-hearing process in
4 this case. This is the local public hearing. The
5 Board does this in all cases like this one. The
6 statute actually requires it that we come to the
7 local area and allow for a local public hearing, and
8 the purpose, again, is to get input from the local
9 community or members of the public at large to
10 testify about the application. So that will be what
11 this is about.

12 On October the 28th, the Board in its
13 offices in Columbus will be holding a second hearing
14 which will mainly be open to the public for viewing,
15 but the purpose of that will be for the Board and the
16 Interveners to actually present their formal case to
17 the Board for additional testimony from the Company
18 in support of their application or the Interveners or
19 whatever their point of view on the application will
20 be.

21 There's a record taken by a court
22 reporter at both of those hearings, and the
23 Commission will consider any sworn testimony that's
24 provided at either hearing. I'll be the Hearing
25 Examiner at both hearings, and in this case, I'm the

1 only Administrative Law Judge that's assigned to this
2 particular case.

3 So I don't know if there's anything else
4 I meant to say by way of introduction but, again,
5 I'll emphasize we're here to hear from you, allow you
6 to provide sworn testimony if you want, and that will
7 really be the only thing that I'm allowing on the
8 record during the time that we are on the record with
9 the court reporter; however, when we take a break
10 when we are finished, there will be a chance for
11 other conversation off the record with anybody that's
12 here.

13 So with that, I'd like to get started by
14 calling the first person that's listed on the sign-up
15 sheet. One other thing I'll add is that even when I
16 get to the end of this list, my intention would be to
17 find out if there's anyone else even by that stage of
18 the night who has a desire to testify. I would allow
19 another opportunity even if you didn't sign the
20 sign-up sheet. Again, there's no requirement of
21 that.

22 Oh, and the other thing is that I may ask
23 questions of any witness that does testify, and
24 Miss Pirik on behalf of the applicant can ask any
25 questions. I'm sure the purpose of the questions

1 will help to get a complete record in this case so
2 the Board will have that to work from.

3 And it's not designed to be argumentative
4 or anything other than a complete record, so that's
5 what I'm sure both me and Miss Pirik will be asking,
6 but that can happen. So, again, let me start by
7 calling the first person listed here, and I see it's
8 Ray Davis.

9 If you'd like to testify, then let me ask
10 you to stand to be sworn.

11 (Witness placed under oath.)

12 ALJ FULLIN: If you would begin by giving
13 your name, spelling your name and giving your address
14 and/or any affiliation so that we have all of that on
15 the record.

16 - - -

17 RAY DAVIS

18 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law,
19 testified as follows:

20 DIRECT TESTIMONY

21 MR. DAVIS: My name is Ray Davis, R-A-Y
22 D-A-V-I-S. I do not live in the project area. I've
23 been commissioned to work in the project area. I am
24 President and partner of OGW Energy Resources. We're
25 a 14-year design build energy company with a focus on

1 solar and lighting.

2 There's two issues I'd like to address
3 tonight. Number one, we've been commissioned by
4 Savion. This is the fifth time we've been
5 commissioned by them to do renewable energy good
6 neighbor programs for the surrounding homes
7 immediately near the solar project.

8 We've done very good work with them
9 before and proud to be able to say that we're going
10 to be bringing that to the Marion County school
11 project with Savion again.

12 Secondly, I'm very passionate about
13 solar. We've been at this for 14 years. I have very
14 personal reasons as to why we got involved with
15 solar. And suffice it to say that I'm championing
16 the cause of clean air for asthmatics that live in
17 the State of Ohio. Many people don't know that
18 fossil fuel emissions cause CO2 sulfur dioxide --
19 excuse me, SO2 sulfur dioxide particulates in our
20 air.

21 We are ranked second out of all 50
22 states, including all U.S. territories. The CDC says
23 that we have over 1 million asthmatics in the state.
24 There's a direct correlation to that, and I've seen
25 it firsthand. SO2 can be insidious for asthmatics.

1 It can cause allergic inflammation. It can cause
2 pulmonary distress. It can cause a lot of issues for
3 asthmatics.

4 We're told that we're going to the U.S.
5 Census Bureau because they're projecting we're going
6 to get over 400 million people within the next 30
7 years. We not only need more energy, but we need
8 more clean energy. With that, I give my wholehearted
9 personal recommendation for the project. I also give
10 my recommendation from OGW Energy Resources. Thank
11 you.

12 ALJ FULLIN: Thank you.

13 Miss Pirik, do you have any questions?

14 MS. PIRIK: No, your Honor.

15 ALJ FULLIN: I don't either. Thank you
16 very much for your testimony.

17 I'll call the next witness. This looks
18 like a G... is it Connie Thomas?

19 MS. THOMAS: Connie Thomas.

20 (Witness placed under oath.)

21 ALJ FULLIN: You can begin and, again,
22 we'd like you to give your name, spell your name,
23 give your address and any affiliation.

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CONNIE THOMAS

being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law,
testified as follows:

DIRECT TESTIMONY

MS. THOMAS: Connie, C-O-N-N-I-E, Thomas,
T-H-O-M-A-S. And I live at 510 Eveningside Circle.
I'm a resident of Marion city, and I'm just here to
say I am very happy to see solar and renewable energy
coming to Marion and our country, and I'm very
pleased. Thank you.

ALJ FULLIN: Thank you very much.

MS. PIRIK: No, your Honor.

ALJ FULLIN: No questions from me either.

Next I'm calling if I'm reading it
correctly it looks like Lynn Thomas.

MR. THOMAS: That's he.

(Witness placed under oath.)

ALJ FULLIN: Like the others, can you
give us your name and spell your name for the record.

- - -

LYNN THOMAS

being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law,
testified as follows:

DIRECT TESTIMONY

MR. THOMAS: It's L-Y-N-N, Thomas,

1 T-H-O-M-A-S. I reside at 510 Eveningside Circle with
 2 my spouse, Connie, who just spoke, and I am a Marion
 3 Township Trustee. I'd just like to go on record to
 4 say that I personally support this project because
 5 we're going to get cleaner energy all the way, and
 6 the fact is I've been in several meetings with Savion
 7 and questions have been answered. It's very
 8 positive. So I'll go on record in support of
 9 bringing clean energy to Marion.

10 ALJ FULLIN: Thank you very much for your
 11 testimony.

12 MS. PIRIK: No questions.

13 ALJ FULLIN: I don't have any questions.
 14 Thank you for your testimony.

15 The next one I'm calling, again I'm not
 16 too clear about the name, but I think it may be Jimmy
 17 Welch.

18 MR. WELCH: Jeremy.

19 (Witness placed under oath.)

20 ALJ FULLIN: Like the others, identify
 21 yourself for the record.

22 - - -

23 JEREMY WELCH

24 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law,
 25 testified as follows:

DIRECT TESTIMONY

1
2 MR. WELCH: Jeremy, J-E-R-E-M-Y, Welch,
3 W-E-L-C-H. I live at 3331 East Augusta Drive
4 Northwest, McConnellsville, Ohio. I do not live in
5 this county. I am a business rep with the Carpenters
6 Union; however, I do represent over 128 members who
7 do live in this area, and 317 live in surrounding
8 counties.

9 What this project could mean to those
10 members, they don't have to travel to Columbus to
11 work anymore. They can work here at home and get to
12 spend time with their families. They can buy gas
13 here. They can have lunches here at the restaurants.
14 They get to spend their tax dollars here.

15 What this project could mean is more tax
16 revenue for the community, better schools, more
17 police officers, more fire departments, better roads.
18 This is a great project for everyone and it's going
19 to benefit the entire community, not just Savion, not
20 just the contractors, not just the carpenters who are
21 working on that project but everybody who lives here.

22 This is a great opportunity, and I'll
23 just put out there that things like this don't happen
24 very often. This is a good thing for you guys.
25 Don't let it pass by. The Carpenters Union fully

1 supports this project.

2 ALJ FULLIN: Thank you.

3 MS. PIRIK: No questions.

4 ALJ FULLIN: No questions from either of
5 us. Thank you for your testimony.

6 Next on the list is... I'm having trouble
7 with the first name but the last name --

8 MR. RUSSELL: Matt Russell.

9 ALJ FULLIN: Yes, okay.

10 (Witness placed under oath.)

11 - - -

12 MATT RUSSELL

13 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law,
14 testified as follows:

15 DIRECT TESTIMONY

16 MR. RUSSELL: I am Matt Russell, M-A-T-T
17 R-U-S-S-E-L-L. I live at 5012 Cryodon,
18 C-R-Y-O-D-O-N, Boulevard North, Columbus, Ohio. Like
19 Jeremy, I'm a business rep for the Carpenters Union.
20 I do not live in this area, but we have many members
21 that live in this area that are coming to Columbus to
22 work, and the important thing about this is it's
23 going to give other people who need employment a
24 chance to go start out at \$18 an hour as a first year
25 apprentice and work on this project and possibly go

1 to other projects and work and have a career in any
2 skilled trade that's installing these solar panels.

3 Like Jeremy said, it's a good
4 opportunity, not only for our members who stay and
5 work in the community they live in and put their
6 money back into the community they live in, but it's
7 also a good opportunity for individuals coming out of
8 high schools, anybody that's unemployed to get a good
9 job in a good skilled trade.

10 The state recognizes this program, and
11 it's starting out at \$18 an hour, so that's pretty
12 good for somebody who is needing employment to put
13 money back into their community, and it's local, so I
14 just believe this is a good project. And like Jeremy
15 said, don't let it pass you by. Thank you.

16 ALJ FULLIN: Thank you for your
17 testimony.

18 MS. PIRIK: No questions.

19 ALJ FULLIN: No questions from either of
20 us.

21 Next on the list is Dominic Straquadine.

22 (Witness placed under oath.)

23 - - -

24 DOMINIC STRAQUADINE

25 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law,

1 testified as follows:

2 DIRECT TESTIMONY

3 MR. STRAQUADINE: My name is Dominic,
4 D-O-M-I-N-I-C, Straquadine, S-T-R-A-Q-U-A-D-I-N-E. I
5 live at 3938 Kellesthorpe Drive,
6 K-E-L-L-E-S-T-H-O-R-P-E, Drive, Apartment E in
7 Columbus, Ohio, 43230.

8 Good evening and thank you. My name
9 again is Dominic Straquadine. As a Marionaire, I'm
10 encouraged to know that green energy has found a home
11 here. I grew up in Grandview Estates and graduated
12 from Ridgedale in 2015. After attending Ridgedale, I
13 went to George Mason University and got my degree in
14 Environmental Studies and found my passion in working
15 to improve communities.

16 The following is an overview of my
17 findings during a cursory review of the material
18 presented in the application and made available
19 through industry data and academic review.

20 Environmental Impacts. Many have
21 concerns relating to the environment with projects
22 like these because of potential for clearcutting and
23 damage to habitat and species; however, due to the
24 data provided by the project team, this will not --
25 there will be minimum clearing of land and minimal

1 damage to waterways.

2 And to work toward mitigating the
3 potential dangers to waterways, the project team has
4 worked to acquire and is working on developing plans
5 for those. But there needs to be infrastructure and
6 understanding of waste disposal for solar panel life
7 cycles. It's also key to understand the planned
8 obsolescence cycle of this technology and the
9 economics associated.

10 Economic Impact. Marion and the
11 surrounding community have a lot to gain from this
12 project. Ridgedale alone stands to gain \$350,000 a
13 year over the course of the project with Marion
14 Township also earning around \$140,000. Jobs, there
15 are approximately 350 jobs that will be added in Ohio
16 with half of them being added in Marion County.

17 The payments of the project will be made
18 into places like Ridgedale and the township because
19 they have agreements with these entities as a result
20 of the tax abatements issued to the project team.
21 These monies and these jobs created are investments
22 within the community and something to be celebrated.

23 Siting. There are many concerns that can
24 be associated with siting on this project including
25 visual impairments. And even though it's not a big

1 wind turbine, it is still a pretty large mechanized
2 structure that spans a great deal of land, so it is
3 recommended to the project team that vegetative
4 screenings are put in place to reduce visual
5 impairments while protecting energy output.

6 Another concern is the viability of
7 farmland after the project is done. So it is
8 recommended to the project team as well that nutrient
9 rich vegetation be planted over the course of the
10 project.

11 Engagement. Projects fail or succeed
12 based on public support throughout the country, and
13 Senate 52 makes that a reality in Ohio. The
14 community outreach framework should be more robust
15 and expansive to allow for community engagement and
16 understanding of concepts and impacts related to the
17 project.

18 And in conclusion, as renewable energy
19 projects become more prevalent, Marion can chart a
20 path forward and be a mark of the future for the
21 area. To ensure the reputation and success of this
22 project and others, Savion must remain committed to
23 the values of honesty, openness and transparency in
24 order to connect with and understand the community.

25 Allow me to close with this: Just as we

1 don't plant a tree for ourselves but for future
2 generations, we should be just as responsible in
3 developing viable energy models today for our
4 tomorrow. Thank you.

5 ALJ FULLIN: Thank you. I think I have
6 one question. In your testimony you had several
7 places you said it is recommended. Am I to
8 understand that it's your recommendation that you're
9 citing?

10 MR. STRAQUADINE: Correct. Its
11 recommendation is based off of the research that I
12 did, and allow me to note that you can find the more
13 full report of this filed with the Ohio Power Siting
14 Board.

15 ALJ FULLIN: Is it filed within this
16 case?

17 MR. STRAQUADINE: Yes, I just submitted
18 it today.

19 ALJ FULLIN: Okay. I did read the file
20 before I came today and I'm not sure that I noticed
21 it, but you said you filed it today, so I'll be
22 looking for it. Okay. Any other questions?

23 MS. PIRIK: No.

24 ALJ FULLIN: Thank you. Next, Jeremy
25 Hinkle.

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(Witness placed under oath.)

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JEREMY HINKLE

being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law,
testified as follows:

DIRECT TESTIMONY

MR. HINKLE: My name's Jeremy Hinkle,
J-E-R-E-M-Y H-I-N-K-L-E, and I'm with Local 18,
operating engineers, and the address is 1188 Dublin
Road, Columbus, Ohio, 43215, and I'll give this to
you when I'm done.

On behalf of the Operating Engineers
Local 18, I'm here to support the approval of the
Marion County Solar Project. The Operating Engineers
are individuals who operate heavy equipment such as
bulldozers, excavators, backhoes, forklifts and so
on. The roads and bridges you drive on are most
likely built by members of Local 118 along with our
fellow union tradesmen and women.

Although we do not have an agreement
signed which Marion County Solar, LLC to perform the
work associated with this project, our local
signatory contractors will secure this work, thus
providing our membership with numerous employment
opportunities. In turn, high paying jobs, health

1 care benefits, apprenticeship programs may continue
 2 to grow because of the solar industry.

3 If approved, the Marion County Solar will
 4 not only create jobs, but you can expect the economic
 5 impact, additional tax money and clean energy for
 6 Ohio as a result of this project. We encourage the
 7 Ohio Power Siting Board to support the jobs of the
 8 men and women of Local 18 by approving the Marion
 9 County Solar.

10 ALJ FULLIN: Thank you. Any questions?
 11 I don't have any questions.

12 Before I call the next person, I want to
 13 just ask everyone to keep in mind that the reporter
 14 is good at what she does, but I would like everyone
 15 to try to slow down a little bit. I'm hearing some
 16 pretty quick speaking. I might even been doing it
 17 myself, but let's all try to relax a little bit and
 18 slow it down just a little bit.

19 Next I'm going to call Carl Neutzling.

20 (Witness placed under oath.)

21 - - -

22 CARL NEUTZLING

23 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law,

24 testified as follows:

25 DIRECT TESTIMONY

1 MR. NEUTZLING: My name is Carl
2 Neutzling, C-A-R-L N-E-U-T-Z-L-I-N-G. I'm a long
3 time member of the International Brotherhood of
4 Electrical Workers, Local 68. Over my years of
5 employment, I've worked many places and around Marion
6 County. I've watched the transition from coal
7 generation to lower or no carbon emissions such as
8 solar.

9 Our rural area of vast farmland is
10 particularly suited to be a great area for this
11 project. I give my complete support of the jobs the
12 Marion County Solar Project will provide. These
13 direct jobs will have a lasting impact on our area.

14 I know that the IBEW stands ready to
15 provide the workers necessary to complete the project
16 in a safe, timely manner. The IBEW has well
17 established training programs to ensure this happens.

18 It is also our intention if given the
19 opportunity, these jobs will become life long careers
20 in the electrical industry, good paying, steady jobs
21 with benefits, jobs that this entire area is in need
22 of. Thank you for your time this evening. I look
23 forward to working with the Ohio Power Siting Board
24 to provide any information I can to ensure the
25 project moves forward.

1 ALJ FULLIN: Thank you for your
2 testimony. No questions from either I or the
3 attorney from the company.

4 Next is Mike Huffman.

5 (Witness placed under oath.)

6 MR. HUFFMAN: My name is Michael Huffman,
7 M-I-C-H-A-E-L H-U-F-F-M-A-N, a resident of Marion,
8 Ohio since 1977. My wife is a lifelong resident.

9 I've been an electrician since 1977, had
10 the opportunity to join the IBEW. And as a retiree
11 and Past President, I have been, you know, familiar
12 with the electrical industry, and I see the
13 importance of moving forward with renewable energy.
14 Anything that is out of the ground is going to run
15 out, and the more you go for it, the more expensive
16 it's going to be.

17 The solar project here I strongly
18 encourage simply for the tax revenues, the increase
19 in the work that we may get out of it and, you know,
20 just the fact that we're moving forward in a
21 renewable energy rather than strictly depending on
22 the old fossil fuels. So I just strongly suggest we
23 move forward as much as we can. So thank you very
24 much.

25 ALJ FULLIN: Thank you for your

1 testimony. No questions from me or from the attorney
2 for the company.

3 Next I'm calling Gus Comstock.

4 (Witness placed under oath.)

5 - - -

6 GUS COMSTOCK

7 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law,
8 testified as follows:

9 DIRECT TESTIMONY

10 MR. COMSTOCK: Gus Comstock, G-U-S
11 C-O-M-S-T-O-C-K. My address is 179 Hunt Rock Drive,
12 Delaware, Ohio. I live in Delaware, but I work in
13 the region. I'm the Director of the Economic
14 Development Agency that represents Marion County.
15 I'm not here on their behalf.

16 What I want to say is I was at the Ohio
17 Farm Bureau -- Marion Farm Bureau meeting several
18 months ago and Dale Arnold spoke. I was very
19 impressed with his comments, and I've adopted
20 something that I learned at that meeting.

21 He was asked "Does the Ohio Farm Bureau
22 support -- is it for or against solar farms?" And
23 his comment was, "We're not for or against solar
24 farms. We're for the Ohio Power Siting Board for
25 being a transparent and thorough evaluation." So I

1 want to recognize the Ohio Power Siting Board. I'm
2 comfortable that you do a very thorough and efficient
3 review of the application.

4 Also what I want to say is corporations
5 have said that by 2030 they want to be -- 70 percent
6 of corporate executives said they want to be carbon
7 neutral by 2030. In Marion, we have the Whirlpool
8 Corporation. Their CEO said that by 2030 they want
9 Whirlpool to be carbon neutral.

10 So my job is to attract and retain
11 companies in Marion. It makes my job much easier if
12 Marion can demonstrate that we've embraced
13 alternative sources of energy because our worst
14 nightmare is that a large employer would be looking
15 at sites in the Marion area and that they find we're
16 at the end of a fossil fuel generated electrical
17 system. So having a solar energy facility near here
18 would add value to us attracting the best companies
19 and the best workers to Marion.

20 ALJ FULLIN: Thank you. No questions
21 from me or from Miss Pirik.

22 Next I'm going to call Jim Bauer.

23 (Witness placed under oath.)

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JIM BAUER

being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law,
testified as follows:

DIRECT TESTIMONY

MR. BAUER: This won't go over real well with this crowd, but I don't understand why this is here. It's my assumption that this is farmland that we're talking about and productive farmland. And if that's the case, then I don't understand why we're covering some of the best farmland in the United States with solar panels.

Now, wind, you can farm under that. And I'm saying if this is farmland that we're going over, I don't understand it. Marion has 175 days of full sun every year. That's not a whole lot. The further you go south, the ground is worse and you have more sun. Electricity goes over waters.

As far as the jobs that are going to be made and are claimed to be made, well, they come and they go. We're quickly becoming a suburb of Columbus and land is being covered by expensive housing. If it's housing that takes over our community, I'm sure it will produce just as much tax and job monies as this solar installation.

So I really don't understand why it's

1 here. If this is productive farmland, I don't know
 2 why we'd cover it up. And that's about the extent of
 3 it other than the fact that I don't know that
 4 anything said here today will change anything, but I
 5 just wanted to say that.

6 ALJ FULLIN: Thank you. Before you're
 7 finished, I wanted you to give your name, spell your
 8 name and give your address.

9 MR. BAUER: It's Jim Bauer, B-A-U-E-R,
 10 210 Glad Street, Marion.

11 ALJ FULLIN: Thank you.

12 And next I'm calling David Carnes.

13 (Witness placed under oath.)

14 - - -

15 DAVID CARNES

16 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law,
 17 testified as follows:

18 DIRECT TESTIMONY

19 MR. CARNES: Good evening. My name is
 20 Dave Carnes, D-A-V-E C-A-R-N-E-S. I live in
 21 Plymouth. I'm not a resident of the county, but I
 22 have done much work here. I've worked here for
 23 almost six years steady from everywhere from
 24 Whirlpool to downtown, the Center Street Market and
 25 all the stuff that is downtown.

1 And I'm a journeyman electrician, IBEW
2 688 Mansfield. And Marion County Solar Project is
3 important to me as it's going to bring possibly me
4 work; if not me, my union brothers and sisters.

5 Everyone knows 2020 was a difficult year
6 all around, but for a lot of Ohioans, it has been a
7 difficult year job wise. It is my understanding that
8 the Marion County project would create local
9 construction jobs.

10 Ohio's pilot program requires use of at
11 least 80 percent local labor. It is my hope these
12 jobs will allow myself and my sisters and brothers to
13 work. I support this project and am excited getting
14 jobs to our area, and thank you for the opportunity
15 to speak.

16 ALJ FULLIN: Thank you. Neither of us
17 have questions. Thank you for your testimony. I've
18 reached the end of the sign-up sheet that I have. Is
19 there any more that are signed up?

20 (No Response.)

21 ALJ FULLIN: Okay, the answer is no, so
22 I'm going to give the opportunity for anyone who
23 didn't testify who still wishes to testify to raise
24 their hands and I'll call on them and give them the
25 opportunity to testify at this point, so please raise

1 your hands now.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I have a question.

3 Can I ask a question or are we just doing comments?

4 ALJ FULLIN: Yes, again, I think I tried
5 to say this at the beginning, we're just accepting
6 testimony, then we're going to go off the record.

7 When we're off the record, there's opportunities to
8 have questions and answers with people that are here
9 from the Board or from the company or just general
10 discussion, but it won't be on the record, and the
11 purpose of the hearing is to get testimony about the
12 application.

13 So, again, is there anyone that wants to
14 raise their hand and testify? Yes, sir. You want to
15 testify?

16 (Witness placed under oath.)

17 ALJ FULLIN: Again, like the others, give
18 your name and address.

19 MR. STOVER: Scott Stover, S-T-O-V-E-R.

20 I'm not a resident of Marion County, but I live in
21 Crawford County, work in Marion here at the National
22 Lime and Stone Company. We are neither for or
23 against the project, but we are for economic
24 development.

25 Obviously the local impact this job would

1 have with 900 some acres would be a significant
2 impact for jobs in the community, not only for our
3 employees but for truck drivers, for restaurants, gas
4 stations and everything else. So on behalf of our
5 company and myself, the economic impact it would
6 bring I think would be a big benefit and the clean
7 energy benefit as well for the community. Thank you.

8 ALJ FULLIN: Thank you. No questions
9 from me or Miss Pirik.

10 Is there anyone else that wants to raise
11 their hand to be recognized?

12 (No Response.)

13 ALJ FULLIN: I'll show on the record I
14 don't see anyone raising their hand. I want to thank
15 everyone that's here tonight for their kind
16 attention. I had a good feeling about how we were
17 just all able to be here and listen to each other and
18 that makes it great. I appreciate that, and I
19 appreciate everyone that did testify. I appreciate
20 all the testimony we got, and I won't linger any
21 longer than this. I'll adjourn this meeting for now.

22 And the next thing to happen in the case
23 will be the administrative hearing in Columbus on
24 October the 28th. Again, anyone is welcome to
25 attend. It's a public meeting, but the purpose will

1 be for the company and the interveners to put on
2 their evidence in support or not in support,
3 whichever way, put on their evidence regarding the
4 application.

5 When that's concluded, then there will be
6 a record from that hearing and from this one that I
7 will use to help draft the Board's decision in the
8 case, and it will be forthcoming based on the record
9 established tonight and at that hearing.

10 And it will be the Board's decision,
11 although I'll be involved in drafting it, I draft it
12 to meet the needs of the Board, and the Board lets me
13 know how they want it decided, so that's the way that
14 will work. I thank everyone, and this hearing is
15 adjourned. Thank you.

16 (The hearing was concluded at 6:38 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the proceedings taken by me in this matter on Tuesday, September 28, 2021, and carefully compared with my original stenographic notes.

Cynthia L. Cunningham

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in

Case No(s). 21-0036-EL-BGN

Summary: Transcript September 28th 2021

In the Matter of the Application of Marion County Solar Project, LLC for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need to Construct a Solar-Powered Electric Generation Facility in Marion County. electronically filed by Mr. Ken Spencer on behalf of Armstrong & Okey, Inc. and Cunningham, Cindy