

**From:** [Puco ContactOPSB](#)  
**To:** [Puco Docketing](#)  
**Subject:** public comment 20-1605  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 12:33:38 PM

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We are writing to you to express our opposition to the Birch Solar 1 project in Allen and Auglaize counties. We are not anti-solar and believe that there is a place for them to supplement fossil fuel more in the future. However, their proposed location is in a residential location that has farmland surrounding it which we believe is not conducive to having a solar field developed in this area.

There are many pros/cons from both sides but we believe that the cons far outweigh any pros that have been brought forward in the last year. Our cons are as listed:

- The proposed panels are not made in the U.S. and have toxic metals that could leach into the ground once the panels begin to degrade over a period of time. If this were to occur, it could impact drinking water wells which are located in the proposed site area. Those results could possibly be catastrophic to anyone consuming the drinking water over a period of time. Who has investigated this potential impact to the citizens?
- In the first public meeting, we were told that the panels would be recycled by Lightsource BP. The question here is by who and what is that location? Has it even been researched that licensed solid waste facilities exist for this type of activity to determine if there is even a valid source in the U.S. to do this? Will they just be buried at some distant location like current turbine blades? To do so is not being a good steward of what we have been given and any panel damaged or removed from the site is already a concern with the probability of emitting harmful metals.
- The proposed area historically has had gas and oil wells which were a part of it's development. Those wells were subsequently capped off to prevent any leaching as time goes by but who is to say that they were all properly identified and recorded. If you reference ODNR data, it states that 271 wells are within one mile of the project area. When you have vibratory movement placing the steel into the ground, who can guarantee that none of these will be breached and cause more soil contamination issues? This is another issue to consider as well as all of the field tile that will be damaged and "hopefully" replaced to its original condition. This area is a historical site location in this region that has not had due diligence given to it and investigated properly to assure there is no future damage created. There is no way to have this land returned back to productive farmland in the future due to compaction, tile damage and removal of the steel pylons.
- Strong consideration needs to be given by the Siting Board to all of public resentment to this project which far outweighs those in favor of it. When you have this many public officials against this project, that needs to be given strong consideration for the validity of this project. Please consider the comments of the following public officials:

Allen County Sanitary Engineers Office, President of The Ohio Legislative Senate,  
Shawnee and Logan County Trustees, Allen County Commissioners, Allen County Auditor

and Allen County Treasurer.

A select few should not be permitted to affect the lives of so many.

Please consider rejection of the 20-1605-EL-BNG Birch Solar 1 project.

Michael & Karen Fry

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

Summary: Public Comment of Michael & Karen Fry, via website, electronically filed  
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