

From: [Puco ContactOPSB](#)
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Subject: public comment 20-1605-EL-BGN
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Pictures and written testimony from 11/03/2021 Public meeting.

Case number 20-1605-EL-BGN

Thank you for being here today and welcome to our community. I'm here today to discuss my concerns regarding the Birch Solar project. As an adjacent landowner, I received notification in October 2020 of the proposed project. I attended the public information meetings in Shawnee to learn more from Lightsource BP regarding the project. As a rural landowner, I have a well on my property that supplies all the water to my household and family. My understanding is that these solar panels will be safe under the best of circumstances, but what about less-than-ideal circumstances? I've lived in this area my entire life - we have a large amount of bad storms with high winds, as well as tornadoes. Can Lightsource BP make guarantees regarding the leaching of chemicals and heavy metals into the groundwater when these are the conditions? Thirty to forty years is a long time, and during that time there will be broken solar panels - what is the outcome?

The property line between my land and the proposed project is a large drainage waterway that is approximately fifteen feet deep and fifteen feet wide. During periods of heavy rain, this waterway fills to the top. It routinely rises to within inches of the road that bridges it on Wapakoneta-Cridersville Rd. or Sellers Rd. in Allen County. With a large percentage of the field to the north of this drainage under solar panels, I fear that the drainage of water will be changed enough to tip this already precarious balance. Included today I have brought pictures from May 9th, 2021 to show the current burden of drainage. These have been submitted online to the OPSB for review. There is also the potential for damage to tiles during construction of this project that will further change the drainage to this area.

Renewable energies must be evaluated from the standpoint of their entire life cycle. My final concern regarding this project is its location on prime farmland. Lightsource BP has stated that this land will be reusable farmland at the close of this project, but this is not a statement that can be verified. We have no way of knowing that land with potential chemicals, heavy metals, damaged tiles, and numerous pylons will be reusable at the close of this program. It has also been unclear who will be responsible for the actual cleanup, and not just the cost of that clean up. Lightsource BP likes to refer to bonds set aside for this, but I do not get the impression that they will actually be handling this portion of the project. There are reports of their Maghaberry facility in Northern Ireland being closed after only three years, so we could be looking at a shorter timeframe for issues regarding clean-up locally.

In closing, I would like to go on the record as opposing this large scale solar project. It is neither in the best interest of the community or the environment. Birch Solar has not been able to show that adjacent landowners will have any kind of recourse for issues with ground water or runoff. We could potentially be left with 2,000

acres that will be unusable at the end of this project. None of these issues are risks that this community is willing to take, and the OPSB shouldn't be willing to either.

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Summary: Public Comment of concerned consumer, via website, electronically filed
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