

From: [Butler, Matthew](#)
To: [Puco Docketing](#)
Subject: Public comment 20-1605
Date: Saturday, November 6, 2021 7:21:26 AM

Re: Case Record for 20-1605-EL-BGN

To Whom This Concerns:

I am sending in my written testimony regarding the Birch Solar Project.

I am not an intervenor. I do, however, am a homeowner at the 1 mile buffer line.

Prior to making the final decision regarding this project, please think about the Why, How and What aspects of this.

WHY does a large company like Amazon want to invest in a solar field in a small rural township that is heavily populated such as Shawnee Township? Why this location? If it wasn't strictly about money, then why not find a location out West? There are plenty of areas that are not conducive to growing crops or raising livestock. The "reason" for doing so is to generate alternative energy. Please ask yourself WHY they are choosing a location that has only 4 months a year with an average of 9 days, each of those months that are cloudy. The other months, on average, have less than 7 hours of sun, until we get into the months known as the "cloudy season" by meteorologist's and residents alike. There are much more suitable locations for their gathering of alternative energy.

"Plants are important in several key processes involved in the interacting system of the earth including hydrosphere, atmosphere, and biosphere. Three of these processes are cycles-water cycle, the nitrogen cycle and the carbon cycle. Plants play a key role in maintaining the balance of each of these cycles. As trees are larger than other plants, their contribution is significant." Sciencelearn.org

"The potential environmental impacts associated with solar power-land use and habitat loss, water use and the use of hazardous materials in manufacturing-can vary greatly depending on the technology, photovoltaic (PV) solar panels or concentrating solar thermal plants (CSP)" ucsusa.org

HOW can this big corporation come in and take over viable farm land? Land that provides a life-sustaining need for both human and livestock consumption. I understand that this land belongs to the farmers, and they have the right to do with as they see fit. But, when that choice presents such dangerous possibilities for other residents, that is when we have the right to step in and voice our concerns and opposition.

Not only does the construction of these solar fields present many environmental concerns, they also upset the habitat of many wildlife that calls these areas their homes. This most definitely will upset the ecosystem that we so desperately need to preserve.

There are not enough long-term studies done to know the actual damage done to the soil and surrounding ecosystem to know if the land could be made viable again. But all the short-term have shown that it is NOT a good option.

WHAT benefit will the takeover of 2000 plus acres of viable farmland and wildlife habitat give to the residents of the involved townships? Nothing but a daily reminder of how Big Corp can come in and bulldoze the little guy with lies and false promises.

We did not ask for this, nor do we want this in our backyards, front yards or even side yards! It will greatly affect our property values. It will greatly affect the way of life for many.

Please consider the ramifications to the emotional and environmental aspects the approving of this project will mean to the those that live in and around the affected area.

We, the residents have to live daily with your decision, while Birch Solar, Lightsource BP, get to come in destroy, destruct, then wipe their hands of any lasting impact their takeover will have. They will never look back and will continue onto the next unsuspecting Community.

Thank you for your time,

Lori Meyer
4011 Shawnee Rd
Lima, Oh
Shawnee

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

Summary: Public Comment of Lori Meyer, via website, electronically filed by
Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing