

From: [Puco ContactOPSB](#)
To: [Puco Docketing](#)
Subject: comment for 20-1605
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 7:02:12 PM

I am a near-lifelong resident of Allen County and current Shawnee Township resident.

You have heard an overwhelming amount of testimony regarding Lightsource BP and the proposed Birch Solar 1 project. A vast majority of the testimony has been in opposition to the project, and the reasons for doing so are numerous as well as varied.

A major concern is that the proposed location is in close proximity to such a populated area. A solar facility such as the one being proposed does not currently exist near a populated area. The residents of Shawnee Township do not wish to be guinea pigs for a multi-billion dollar corporation's science project. Testimony was given regarding the toxic materials in the panels. Flooding issues were also addressed. Electromagnetic radiation was another hot-button concern. Oddly, testimony was given on both sides of these issues, though I'm not sure comparing a 2000+ acre solar energy production facility to the radiation produced by a cell phone is a reasonable comparison. Regardless, if there is such debate on important issues such as well water contamination, runoff control, and emitted radiation, the permit should be denied. If there is no consensus on these issues, the project will be an experiment, and the stakes are high (cancer and other health concerns).

Deny the permit.

There is no going-back if this project is approved. I grew-up on a farm of approximately 100 acres in rural Allen County and jokingly refer to myself as a retired farmer. The damage done to the landscape will be unrecoverable, and the plot will be an environmental dump. Reason dictates that the damage done in the name of the project will be permanent.

Deny the permit.

LSBP has not provided required information in the permitting process or been very transparent in any portion of the project to date. During the public hearing, one gentleman testified that he had not been in contact with someone at LSBP for a time, to which a LSBP rep said he is no longer with the company. That did not sit well with the audience. If they can't keep it together for the permitting process, how are we to reasonably expect it to go any better during construction?

Deny the permit.

I understand the purpose of a public hearing, but testimony from those outside the township should

be severely discounted, as they have absolutely no stake in this project. They will not be surrounded by panels. They will not have to wake-up and see this monstrosity every day. They will not have to see this absurdity twice a day on their commute. The power generated at the proposed facility will not be used to charge their phones or heat their homes. This area might not be your Yellowstone, as was disrespectfully said in a gentleman's testimony last night, but it is someone's home: where they raised their children, where they have chosen to live-out their retirement years in peace and quiet, where they have spent years of hard-earned wages to be left alone.

Deny the permit.

However, I also understand where landowners seeking leases from LSBP are coming from. One gentleman basically testified that it's his land and that he can do with it as he pleases. As-if! If it were, localities would not have zoning boards and the like. The bottom line is that a landowner cannot do what he damn well pleases. Adjacent landowners have rights, too! Approving this project would ruin people's lives. It has already changed/damaged peoples lives, as they have had to dedicate countless hours, probably to the detriment of their professional and family lives, to researching solar power, the permitting process, their legal rights, and so on. If approved, the project will have negative effects that will ripple throughout Shawnee Township, Allen County, and Ohio, as well. Your board has recently denied a permit for a similar project. You know what to do with this one...

Deny the permit.

There are no gains to be had from this. The construction workers will not be from here. The panels will be produced in China by slave labor. The landscape will be raped and forever transformed. The power will be sold to a multi-billion dollar monolith corporation. Dangerous chemicals in the panels could poison well water. Storm runoff will result in even more damaging flooding. There is no benefit to Shawnee Township. Please, you have fantastic testimony and facts before you. BP has a bad reputation here, and they are not welcome, regardless of the guise they hide behind. Hopefully public outcry in opposition has swayed you to do the right thing.

Deny. This. Permit!

Respectfully submitted by Travis R Unterbrink
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Summary: Public Comment of Travis R Unterbrink, via website, electronically filed
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