

My name is Laurie Hodosko and I live in Allen County, Shawnee Township. I am opposed to the Birch Solar 1 project. This project is a large solar project that is in close proximity to many residences. There are approximately 689 parcels of land within a ½ mile radius of the proposed project.

Some of the reasons that I am against this project are:

That you are eliminating valuable farm land, that is currently producing food. These farm lands are not infertile or barren lands.

Destroying animal habitat

Declining property values

When this project is over, how can this land ever be returned to its original use?

I also think that a major concern, that needs to be addressed is what happens if these panels break down and the toxic chemicals that are used to make the panels, leak into the ground. These panels sit on two major water sheds, that feed into the Auglaize River, which flows upstream, and is fed into the reservoirs that provide water for ALL of Allen County, not to mention the wells of the home owners surrounding this project. If this happens, we could be looking at a major disaster.

Birch Solar has given us many “answers” to our concerns, but in reality, they have never had a project this large, within an area that is as heavily populated. How can they justify our concerns, when they have no other project like this one to compare to?

In closing this is a large solar project that only a handful of people will benefit financially. The unknowns are just too great to risk allowing this project to continue.

Laurie Hodosko

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