

From: [Puco ContactOPSB](#)
To: [Puco Docketing](#)
Subject: public comment 21-1605
Date: Wednesday, November 17, 2021 7:58:44 PM

Here to oppose the Birch Solar 1 project.

I was born and raised a farm person. So I can't call this a solar farm. A farm is for growing crops and rearing animals. The Birch Solar 1 project is a destruction to Shawnee township, Allen and Auglaize county communities. I am not against solar projects but against the misuse of our good productive farm land. There are plenty of suitable locations. Such as parking lots and roof tops of buildings. There are currently 88 planned solar projects in Northern Ohio. If each project is around 1,000 acers that's 88,000 acers of good productive farm land and our food source taken away. The Birch Solar 1 project is 300mw and 2,345 acers. That's more than your average proposed solar projects. Largely a residential area with some farm land. The power being sold to Amazon and not going to the local residents. Local residents property values will be decreased and local temperatures around the site will increase.

The solar panels are PV-photo voltaic, which are mostly made in third world countries with poor labor conditions. They contain forever chemicals and carcinogens which seep into the ground. The companies who produce PV panels pollute the environment and aquatic life around the production facilities by dumping silicone by products into near by water. We should be supporting American made products and something not harmful to our environment.

Shawnee township is zoned. However Lightsource BP can just come in like all solar companies and not have to follow zoning. Should we just take away zoning or is this just another agenda of the OPSB. Unfortunately created from the Governor Strickland days.

Approximately 157.65 miles of DC-direct current wires and approximately 34.7 miles of AC-Alternating current cables will be buried below ground. When digging to put these wires and cables in what will happen when they hit a underground well? What will that do to the drinking water? Let alone all the chemicals from the panels seeping into the ground. All the digging could possibly cut lateral tiles, causing excessive flooding to the area.

Approximately 95 power inverters emitting sound decibels louder than farm equipment plan to be installed. Not only a nuisance to human ears but disruptive to wildlife. Also the glare from the panels will cause birds to dive into the panels causing harm or even death. Studies have shown that temperatures get hot enough inside solar sites to burn birds upon entry. There currently are 4 pairs of federally protected eagles within the site. Animals will have to relocate to new habitat causing more deer accidents with vehicles.

The process a solar project has to go through in Ohio is causing our state to be targeted. Many want to say this is a personal property right issue. However Senator McColley helped create SB 52 to give those in opposition a voice. He says people have a right to know how these projects will effect the landscape. Simply giving the communities a voice and allow their opinions heard. However Lightsource BP came in with lies and mislead this community. Claiming they had already negotiated with the counties for the pilot program. They claim 400 jobs will be created. However they will only be temporary jobs and once construction is over, will move onto the next solar project. Just a band aid not a permanent fix to our economic workforce problem. This summer I visited Winona Lake water park. A great family place to cool off on a hot summer day. With nice shelter houses for picnics and plenty of shade to get out of the sun. However the Birch Solar 1 project will be adjacent

to Winona lake causing them loss of profits and customers visiting with a eye sore next door. All these facts show there is no need for Birch Solar 1 in Shawnee township, Allen and Augilaze counties. Support your true local farmers not solar farmers. Solar farmers don't exist. Buy more dirt, cause we can't make more of it. Put your roots down deep in what already exist, not some new wave idea that might be gone in 5 years. Look at the Lightsource BP project from Ireland that only lasted 3 years from 2018-2020. This is God's country. Let's keep it that way and not pollute it with greed, harmful chemicals, and rotting solar projects. Vote no for the Birch Solar 1 project.

Thank you

Rachelle Harmon

Arcadia Ohio

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities
Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

11/18/2021 8:29:23 AM

in

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

Summary: Public Comment of Rachelle Harmon, via website, electronically filed by
Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing