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November 19, 2021

***Via Electronic Filing***

Ms. Tanowa Troupe  
Administration/Docketing  
Ohio Power Siting Board  
180 East Broad Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

**Re: Cepheus Solar Project, LLC, Case No. 21-0293-EL-BGN**

Dear Ms. Troupe:

Attached for filing in the above-referenced case are Cepheus Solar Project, LLC's **Supplemental Response** to OPSB Staff's Sixth Data Requests dated November 3, 2021.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kara H. Herrnstein  
Dylan F. Borchers  
Counsel for Cepheus Solar Project, LLC

# Supplemental Response to Staff Sixth Data Request Dated November 3, 2021

## Cepheus Solar Project

Delaware Township and the Village of Sherwood, Defiance County, Ohio

## Case No. 21-0293ELBGN

Prepared by:



**Cepheus Energy Project, LLC**

400 Montgomery Street, Eighth Floor

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**CEPHEUS ENERGY PROJECT, LLC'S SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE TO STAFF'S  
SIXTH DATA REQUEST DATED NOVEMBER 3, 2021**

Local Jurisdictions

**1. Have the entities of Defiance County, the Village of Sherwood, or Delaware township, passed any ordinances or resolutions that: limits the development of; establishes a setback or buffer to; establishes a noise standard for; or pertains to utility scale solar development in the project area for Cepheus Energy Project, LLC? If so, please provide that ordinance or resolution.**

**RESPONSE:** In its Response to Staff's Sixth Data Request, filed November 12, 2021, Cepheus Energy Project, LLC ("Cepheus") disclosed that two members of the board of trustees of Delaware Township had passed resolution #5-1-2021 on May 3, 2021. Later that month, the project layout was shared with the public. Cepheus also disclosed that the Village of Sherwood had expressed general concerns through a public comment, filed on October 21, 2021, on the impact to economic development.

Cepheus notes that it is not aware of any formal or specific economic development plans for the planned project area. Neither the May resolution nor the public comment referenced any specific development program, far less one that would be inconsistent with a solar project. Nonetheless, Cepheus has continued to work with the Delaware Township trustees and local stakeholders to address any concerns, including any concerns related to future economic development in the area.

On this point, Delaware Township Trustee John Fifer, Jr. filed a public comment on Monday November 22, 2021. While Trustee Fifer was one of the two Trustees who passed the May resolution, he now supports the project. He states, "I would like to support the solar project now[.]" He continues, "I also believe the income would greatly help the township budget."

Cepheus also directs Staff to the public comment of Mike Moats, an outgoing Delaware Township trustee, filed on Friday, November 19, 2021. As Mr. Moats explains, Cepheus has worked closely with him and other local leaders following the May resolution to ensure that the project is consistent with and will encourage economic development in the area. He supports the project and states "I believe the other Trustees share this belief and now have a better understanding of the solar farm project than when the solar resolution was passed in May."

For example, Mr. Moats indicates:

The trustees can use the yearly income generated from this project for numerous reasons: maintenance and repair of township roads and bridges including mowing and snow removal, fire protection and emergency services, ditch management, and the maintenance of Sherwood Cemetery.

...

[T]he project continues to go above and beyond to answer [the public's] concerns. That includes setting aside 50 acres for other types of development in the Village. That development has not happened in 20 years despite a lot of effort to do so. It still can happen in the future thanks to the Cepheus Solar Farm project's adjustment to their designs. I urge you to approve the Cepheus Solar Project so it can provide benefits to Delaware Township, Defiance County and the Central Local School District.

Finally, to provide additional context to the lack of economic development referenced by Mr. Moats, Cepheus provides updated population data below.

As reported in the Socioeconomic Report (Exhibit D of the Application), the Village of Sherwood and Delaware Township, the two host communities of the Facility, have experienced very little population change since 2000. At the time of preparation of the Socioeconomic Report, data for the 2020 census had not yet been released at the township or village level, and the reported population change was based on the most recent available population estimates (2019). The 2020 census count data are now available for these geographies, and show lower populations for both Delaware Township and the Village of Sherwood than the 2019 estimates. These updated population numbers from the 2020 census are provided in the table below.

Jurisdiction	1980 Population Count	2000 Population Count <sup>4</sup>	2019 Population Estimate <sup>5</sup>	2020 Population Count <sup>4</sup>	Percent Change 1980- 2020
Defiance County	39,987 <sup>1</sup>	39,500	38,160	38,286	-4.3%
Delaware Township	2,100 <sup>2</sup>	2,128	2,086	2,030	-3.3%
Village of Sherwood	915 <sup>3</sup>	801	821	802	-12.3%

1. Ohio Department of Development Office of Strategic Research. (2020). *Ohio County Profiles*. Columbus. Retrieved from <https://business.development.ohio.gov/files/research/C1021.pdf>

2. Steven Manson, Jonathan Schroeder, David Van Riper, Tracy Kugler, and Steven Ruggles. IPUMS National Historical Geographic Information System: Version 16.0 Table 1: (AV0) Total Population. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS. 2021. <http://doi.org/10.18128/D050.V16.0>

3. Ohio Department of Development Office of Strategic Research. (2001). *Decennial Census of Population, 1900 to 2000, By Place*. Columbus. Retrieved from <https://development.ohio.gov/files/research/plchist.pdf>

4. U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census (2000 and 2020)

5. ACS 5-Year Estimates (2015-2019)

Although the population of the Village of Sherwood increased by one from 2000-2020, this is much lower than the increase of 21 residents suggested by the 2019 population estimate available at the time of filing the Application. The 2020 census count

shows that the village population declined by 113 residents over the previous 40 years (1980-2020), representing an overall population decrease of 12.3%.

Delaware Township added approximately 28 residents from 1980-2000, but has since declined by 98 residents, a decrease of 3.3%. Similarly, the population of Defiance County has been declining slowly since 1980, when it peaked at 39,987. The county population has decreased by 4.3% in the past 40 years.

Accordingly, the host communities for the facility have experienced prolonged population decline over the last forty years, including between 2019 and 2020. As indicated by Trustees Moats and Fifer, they now believe that the project has the potential to help these communities economically. As set forth in their comments, the income from the facility will help the local budgets and provide long-term economic development.

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities  
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**in**

**Case No(s). 21-0293-EL-BGN**

Summary: Text Cepheus Solar Project, LLC's Supplemental Response to OPSB  
Staff's Sixth Data Requests dated November 3, 2021 electronically filed by Teresa  
Orahood on behalf of Herrnstein, Kara