

Subject: Harvey Solar Project, Hartford Township

Case Number: 21-0164-EL-BGN

To the Ohio Power Sitting Board:

The following statements collectively should enter into "strong objection" of the Harvey Solar Project, located in Hartford Township, Licking County Ohio.

Impact of Harvey Solar Project

A number of contributing factors as to why the Harvey Solar Project (HSP) should be disapproved are presented within the below arguments, statements to be taken as "opposition" to furtherance of the project.

Electromagnetic Field Exposure

Electromagnetic Field exposures, such as from solar panels, inverter conversion, and underground conductor lines, are part of a non-ionizing classification of EMFs. Direct Current (DC) electric resulting from solar output is converted into Alternating Current (AC) through what is called an inverter. Electricity from solar panels is converted into electricity, often results in dirty electricity. Dirty Electricity, specifically, is electricity that has distortion or interference, low power factor, and inverters converting DC current to AC current is a major contributing factor to Electromagnetic Fields (EMF). (1)(3)

Solar farms have extensive underground electrical networks to take power from solar panel arrays, to inverters, and from inverter to power grid, power company sub-station. Even though these distribution networks are underground, EMF levels are significant, producing measurable EMFs at ground level, regardless of setback requirements.

Studies have suggested some groupings of individuals have hypersensitivity to EMFs which can cause symptoms of severe fatigue, dizziness, headaches, and sleep disturbances. Some research conclusions may also show minimal to psychosomatic effects from exposure to EMFs. Other studies do seem to have conclusive links to developmental issues in early life stages, embryo and reproductive systems, humans and animals, insects, increased incidence of health-related effects from long-term EMF exposure. (2)

In an industrial setting such as Harvey Solar Project, EMF factors are far greater, many times greater than any home setting. For example, if you have ever stood under high-power transmission tower lines in our area, you likely will hear a constant buzz or static electricity sound. On humid days, rainy days, that sound is more pronounced. This is very high levels of EMF emitting from those lines, and it is not something that would warrant long term exposure to. The electrical field created from those lines is very measurable, and can easily be felt.

The process of converting the low voltage DC from the panels to usable electricity for the home constantly puts dirty electricity into your lines. Over time, this can build up to significant levels and can result in exposure to increased amounts of EMF emissions.

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Honey Bee EMF Exposure

Research on the effects of Electromagnetic Fields exposure on honey bees and other insects has shown well documented effects. Honey bees, in particular to this study, are an integral insect species for pollination, a requirement for plants to grow and thrive, generally nature to exist.

Effects on honey bee population, due to EMFs, have been shown to have causative affect:

1. Behavioral factors
2. Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD)
3. Decreased egg laying rate
4. Reduced colony strength
5. Physiology disorders

Honey bee's resistance to environmental stressors is weakened by EMF exposures. CCD has weakened bee population which results in bees unable to maintain health. Honey production, egg production by queen bee, have both been shown to be reduced. Hive sizes also are reduced which affects colony strength, and a colonies ability to thrive and survive. (4)(5)

Studies of EMF effects seem to be well documented with an overwhelming negative impact on honey bee populations and insect population, and their existence in areas where elevated EMFs will be produced, such as the Harvey Solar Project.

Insects in general (butterfly, moth, wasps, bees, flying insects, grasshopper, etcetera), experience disruption in fertility, flight dynamics, failure to find food, sense of orientation. (6) (7) (8) (9)

While some of the published studies use differing approaches and methods, the ending conclusion is EMFs have an effect on insect populations and morbidity. Insects, whether regarded as a nuisance, or a nature benefit, insects support life forms of predatory birds, barn swallows, bats, and other forms that rely on insects for part of their food source. A lack of food for insect predatory aviary, likely results in a diminished population of affected birds and other species. The environment is intentionally well balanced and as such any disruption in that delicate balance can, and usually does, have a domino effect for supporting life forms. Flowers and trees need bees for pollination, birds and other animals need insects for supporting and sustaining their life forms, and dependencies escalate from there. It is called the food chain, and without it, ecology may severely be impacted.

Summary

The Harvey Solar Project is not only affecting to community residents, it is as much a detrimental effect on the immediate ecology in the affected community areas. It seems evident that those who are in favor of this project have a selfish interest. Genuinely upsetting for residents in the peaceful surrounding community area, not ecologically good for the affected areas this project impacts, HSP will make for a negative impact on the lives of those who are proximal to this project, as well as those in neighboring properties.

High level EMF forces are nothing to take lightly, not ecological risk. High voltage line towers are far above ground level to reduce the immediate high-level EMFs emitted from the lines. The fact that you can hear these lines buzzing means there is exposure to those EMF.

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Previously stated, and worth mentioning again, plots of solar arrays will be an eye sore and will affect the lives of many, only for the financial benefit of those who have agreed to lease their land to the Harvey Solar Project, those who have been paid off by the Harvey Solar Project. Regardless of landowner rights, no single landowner should be able to, or have the right to, make decisions about their land use, use that may have a negative impact on the community.

Project projections, again, and in my belief, seemingly have been sugar coated, promising financial incentives to the community, resting on false hope. Last I was aware, politicians actually represent the people of the community, and should do so without bias. In the case of HSP, I think there some level of self-serving interest of select landowners and elected officials, activities that excluded the general community.

As for the advertisement of jobs created, please understand that the majority of workers for this project will be contracted resources that do not live in the community. The majority of workers will be specialized skilled trades, external to the community, perhaps out of state, and when their work is done, resources would move onto the next project. The promoted creation of hundreds of jobs, are only temporary, not sustainable jobs.

Construction traffic road use from heavy load vehicles, increased traffic flow to build sites, increased traffic volumes, all this will attribute to road degradation. Increased traffic can also have the effect of increased incidence of vehicular accidents. The roads are narrow. Rural roads already have weight limitations in place to protect road surface and structure.

There is enough factual evidence against these farms, ecology, environmental impact, and the fact a majority of community residents do not want this, would seem to leverage unfavourability to this project.

I am in "strong objection" of the Harvey Solar Project, located in Hartford Township, Licking County Ohio. I sincerely hope OPSB can fully understand the level of sincerity and promote objection and cancellation of this project.

Thank you.

John Ford, Hartford Township Neighbor, Sunbury, OH 43074

References

1. <https://www.powermag.com/dirty-electricity-but-not-the-kind-you-think/>
2. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3341445/>
3. <https://www.epa.gov/radtown/electric-and-magnetic-fields-power-lines>
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12/7/2021 9:25:28 AM

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Summary: Public Comment of John Ford, via website, electronically filed by
Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing