

FILE

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December 7, 2021

PUCO

John and Susan Dunlap  
10405 Yankeetown Pike  
Williamsport, OH 43164

RE: Chipmunk Solar LLC Pre-Application Informational  
Meeting Written Comments.

Dear Chipmunk Solar, LLC:

In accordance with Ohio Administrative Code § 4906-3-03(B) (4), we are providing our written comments at your December 7, 2021 pre-application informational meeting. It is our understanding that Chipmunk Solar LLC ("Chipmunk Solar"), a subsidiary of EDF Renewables, is proposing a 400 megawatt project using photovoltaic panels in Pickaway County, Ohio ("Project"). We are neighboring landowners to the property that will be leased and equipped with photovoltaic panels, and we are opposed to this proposed project.

Although Chipmunk Solar is new to Pickaway County, many landowners that are opposed to the Project are not new to this community. Much of the land to be used for the Project has been farmed or has been in agricultural uses for over 200 years.

Taking the land out of agricultural or conservational use will have deleterious effects on our community. First, there are obvious aesthetic concerns – solar panels are not attractive and will effect property values of homeowners. The accompanying fencing will harm wildlife movement. Our home is less than a ½ mile from the proposed panel location; when the panels face west, the reflecting sunlight could blind our house – an obvious nuisance. Second, most photovoltaic panels contain chemicals, such as cadmium, that could harm our county's waterways should they leach out over time. We have water wells that will be a quarter-mile from the panels. Thirdly, and most important to us as neighboring landowners, is our concern about the "heat-

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island" effect that comes from photovoltaic plants. One article in the *Nature*, estimates the impact to be an increase of 3-4 degrees Celsius. For someone who lives next door and raises crops on the adjoining land, this is not trivial and would significantly impact our ability to raise crops and the ability to continue to enjoy our property.

Finally, we understand that the current political and business trajectory for our country is to develop carbon-free energy to sell to companies on carbon markets that are in their infancy. These carbon-free technologies are fast moving and ever-changing – it is possible that these photovoltaic panels are technically obsolete in 10 years. This is concerning because unlike Western States, Ohio does not have an abundance of sunshine. According to the *Farmer's Almanac*, central and Southern Ohio experience between 72 and 77 clear days of sunshine a year. Should the economic carbon markets not develop or technology advances in a different direction, it stands to reason that the lesser-producing solar projects may be discontinued. At this time, it is not clear what Chipmunk Solar will do if that happens to be the case. At a minimum, we request that the dismantling costs be set-aside and held in trust should the economic realities not develop in accordance with Chipmunk Solar's projection. This community will not be saddled with this equipment should your business proposition fail.

We understand that you plan on filing your formal application in January 2022. Pursuant to O.A.C. §4906-3-03(B)(4), you need to summarize the community's reaction. Please include this letter in your application as strong opposition to your project.

Should you file your formal application, we plan on opposing this project through the administrative process.

Sincerely,

The block contains two handwritten signatures. On the left is the signature of Susan S. Dunlap, and on the right is the signature of John A. Dunlap. Both signatures are written in cursive ink.

John and Susan Dunlap