

FILE

December 8, 2021

To Ohio Power Siting Board:

I write to express my opposition to the proposed solar panel project, Case #21-0960-EL-BGN, Project Name: Chipmunk Solar. Several foreign solar companies are currently attempting to locate large solar farms, "industrial solar" projects, in Pickaway County. The Chipmunk Solar industrial project is attempting to put in thousands of acres of solar panels in the Westfall School District. My home is located approximately 2 miles from the project.

I, along with more than 60 people who recently attended an information meeting, have the following concerns:

- Loss of home values in the area
- Loss of agricultural/rural feel
- Nuisance from construction
- Destruction of roads
- Destruction of farm ground
- Impact on the local farming economy
- Environmental concerns and water quality
- Fire safety

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There is much negative information available about what happens to a community when such an operation is set up. There is also informed thinking that the best places for solar operations are on roofs of buildings and ground that is far removed from communities and farmland. I believe that solar industrial projects belong on rooftops, commercial, industrial-zoned land, marginal or contaminated areas, not on rural-agricultural land.

The Chipmunk Solar Industrial Project is planned to be constructed on fertile farmland. There has been no long-range goal stated; no specific maintenance, upkeep, and no monitoring plan communicated. Information has been shared with those of us who are opposed to the project about the destruction of farmland in areas of the state where solar projects are constructed and are in the process of being constructed. We have also heard from 2 landowners who are attempting to cancel their leases in other projects because they feel they made a mistake in doing so. But the solar companies are ignoring their requests.

The following conclusions are reasonable regarding the proposed industrial solar projects planned for Pickaway County:

1. There is no history to draw on about what happens to the farm ground after 20-40 years of an energy plant being located on it.
2. The residents in this area probably won't be the guaranteed consumers of the electrical energy from this power plant.
3. Protection from neglect or damages doesn't exist and when they occur, concerned residents who experience the impact from damage or neglect associated with the project will have no support readily available to fix the problem.
4. Locations other than this farm ground that are already paved were not chosen because they were not as close to the electric towers that are located on this farm ground, were not as easy to procure as this farm ground, and were more costly to develop.

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*Technician NJB Date Processed 12/16/21

5. Almost 80% of the leased farm ground for this project belongs to absentee landlords who will not experience the destruction of the rural community.

The people who will use this energy, are likely far from here, but they are also consumers of food. The existing farm ground here is needed for crop or livestock production. This proposed power plant could be located somewhere else that is already paved or developed—if that happened, the power plant could be built, the electric produced as clean energy, and the farm ground protected.

I am opposed to this project. I respect the role that you play in this process, and hope that you will address the concerns of those in the community who are opposed before moving forward with a project like this that will change the landscape and environment for those who reside and work in the area forever.

My phone number is 740-474-5951; my email address is jill.riddle1974@gmail.com, and my address is 19284 London Road, Circleville OH 43113.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill Riddle". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of "Jill" and "Riddle" being capitalized and prominent.

Jill Riddle