

Dear Chairwoman French and Members of the Ohio Power Siting Board,

I am contacting you with multiple concerns regarding the application files from Chipmunk Solar (Case #21-0960-EL-BGN) that were posted on March 2, 2022. First, I think it's important to note that Chipmunk Solar seemed to try to buy support before notifying surrounding homeowners about the project. The "Proof of Notice of Public Informational Meeting" published in the case file on December 7, 2021 contained the letter sent to neighboring households with the date the letter was written being November 15, 2021. On November 8, 2021, Chipmunk Solar made a \$25,000 donation to Westfall Local Schools. On November 17, 2021, likely before many people received their letter, they donated prizes and solar-powered toy cars to the STEM workshop at Westfall Local Schools. On November 19, 2021, they finally announced the public information meeting on their Facebook page. The map included in the letter notification was also the first they let the community know about the size and exact location of the project. Previously, they only stated "Pickaway County" as their location. While it might not be illegal for Chipmunk Solar/EDF Renewables to do these things, it clearly shows the lack of transparency on their side.

In Section E under "Project Description and Schedule", they left out a church that is extremely close to the project area: Williamsport United Methodist Church on 218 N Main St in Williamsport.

In Section D under "Detailed Description of Proposed Facility", Chipmunk Solar states that that section is not applicable to them. However, they have also stated that they have not decided which types of solar panels they plan to use. In a conversation with Chipmunk Solar representative Jacob Salisbury on December 22, 2021, he stated, "The solar technology for the Chipmunk Solar Project has not yet been selected, so we cannot confirm that panels containing cadmium telluride will be used". In an informational paper presented by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), the organization states, "CDTe solar panels may be hazardous due to cadmium". They also stated that Gallium arsenide (GaAs) panels could be hazardous due to arsenic. This resource will be listed underneath this paragraph. So, I must ask, if Chipmunk Solar doesn't know which solar panels they are using, can they actually state that this section isn't applicable to them?

<https://scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/Library/OR-1695.pdf>

In their application file, Chipmunk Solar states, “The Applicant has designed the Facility layout to avoid wetlands to the extent practicable, and proposes to use HDD drilling techniques during Project construction to avoid impacts to all but one wetland and all streams”. Recently, Deer Creek Dam reported seven Juvenile Bald Eagles in the area. The ODNR reported nine Bald Eagle nests in Pickaway County in 2020. Needless to say, there is a large population of Bald Eagles in the area. According to ODNR, “The bald eagle occurs in marshes, swamps, and river systems throughout Ohio”. Because of this, I insist that ZERO wetlands be impacted by the Chipmunk Solar Project.

On Page 107 of the file, Chipmunk Solar states, “Seramur’s investigations identified no evidence of buried cultural deposits and further deep testing was not recommended”. There have been several American Indian artifacts found in and around the areas that are part of the solar project. Most commonly, arrowheads are found. Because of the multiple people I know who have found these artifacts, including myself, I refute Seramur’s findings.

On Page 64, Chipmunk Solar states, “General construction activities will occur between 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM, or until dusk when sunset occurs after 7:00 PM. During the majority of the summer, the sun sets after 8:30 PM, with sunsets at the end of June being at around 8:50 PM. Many people are in bed at that time. Please take note that there are a lot of children in the area. Chipmunk Solar has indeed mentioned a Good Neighbor Program, but there is no monetary value on lost sleep.

On Page 73, Chipmunk states, “The ODNR indicated that there are records of one state endangered plant (Leiberg’s panic grass [*Dichanthelium leibergii*]) and one state potentially threatened plant (inland rush [*Juncus interior*]) at or within a 1-mile radius of the Project Area. No rare or protected plant species were identified during the field surveys”. I have witnessed these plants in the area. I believe that their conclusion may have been caused by surveyors being active in the area in late fall and winter.

On Page 26 of Exhibit O, there is a map of the amount of sound that is likely to be generated by the solar project at operational level. Please take note of the number of properties that are extremely close to the noisy areas. I have counted at least 10 that will definitely be impacted by the noise. It is worth noting that many people who moved to Pickaway County moved here because of the quiet atmosphere and lack of activity. That would definitely change with the approval and construction of the Chipmunk Solar Project.

On Page 13 of Exhibit Q, you may observe how close the solar farm is to a stream. Please also note how much of the land proposed to be used is in the 100 Year Flood Plain. As global warming becomes a bigger issue, we can expect water levels and likely the floodplain to increase over the next 40 years (the lifespan of the project according to Chipmunk Solar). This could be a situation that ends in the contamination of our water sources.

In Filing 3 of 3 of Exhibit T, please take notice that Chipmunk's drawings of the project DO NOT show fencing that blends in with the natural aesthetic of the area, nor do they have very many evergreen trees and shrubs in visually sensitive locations, as stated in their 225-page application file. Here is a direct quote from the file bullet points: "Installation of fencing best-suited to blend in with the natural aesthetic of the area; Planting evergreen trees and shrubs in visually sensitive locations around the Project to protect residents' viewsheds, limiting Project visibility" (Page 7). Metal chain link fencing does not go with the "natural aesthetic" of Williamsport and the surrounding areas. Also, if you were the resident of the house shown on Page 10, do you believe your view of the solar farm would be significantly diminished based on their illustration of the surrounding trees they will plant? If you're unsure, please take a look at the illustration of the trees and shrubbery around the power plant on Page 18.

In Section 3.1 of Exhibit L, Chipmunk States, "All piles shall be removed from the site by the pull-out method, and if sections of piles detach during this operation, sections will be removed if they are within 3 feet of the final ground surface." This could be a problem for farmers. For example, if they have to install or replace field tile, they will have to do a significant amount of digging. According to Fairfield Soil and Water on the topic of field tile, "Depth typically varies between 2.5 feet and 5 feet deep, but can be much deeper" (Fairfield SWCD, 2020). This is just one example of how pile sections can interfere with farming activities. The concrete foundations in Section 3.2 can cause the same problems. In a November 10, 2021 post on Facebook, a comment by Chipmunk Solar Project states, "Once the project is decommissioned, the equipment is removed and the land is restored...". I think this comment is very misleading if their plan is to leave piles and concrete foundations in the ground as long as they're three feet under.

In Exhibit J, which is the Complaint Resolution Plan, Chipmunk Solar states, "Chipmunk Solar will attempt to respond to submissions and inquiries within three business days, excluding federally-designated holidays". I contacted a representative of Chipmunk Solar with questions on

January 18, 2022. The representative responded on January 20 stating that he was out of the office and would get back with me the following week. As of March 3, 2022, I have not received a response from the representative despite my two follow-up emails on February 8 and March 1. Can the Pickaway County community actually trust Chipmunk Solar's Complaint Resolution Plan when they cannot even get back to residents asking questions during the pre-application phase?

Regarding Exhibit G, please take note of the letter from the Center of Energy Education written on February 25, 2022. Please also note the words on the bottom of the page. It says, "CC: Nathan Wiles, EDF Renewables". I believe that Nathan Wiles requested their letter of support. While it may not be illegal, I believe that this is not fair to the residents of Pickaway County, whether they support solar or not. Businesses should not be included in the public comments section.

Chipmunk Solar's #1 argument for solar farms seems to be the \$3 million in tax revenue it will bring to the community. However, Chipmunk Solar has expressed interest in participating in a PILOT program, which would decrease the taxes they'd have to pay. On January 18, 2022, EDF representative Karl Pierce attended a Pickaway County Commissioners meeting to discuss Chipmunk Solar and the PILOT program. The Pickaway County Commissioners expressed that they didn't support a PILOT program for Chipmunk Solar. According to the meeting minutes, "Mr. Pierce asked the Commissioners why they would not like to participate in any PILOT program and Commissioner Scherer went on to discuss the economic and taxes received and long-term jobs". If Chipmunk Solar is so excited to give money to the community via taxes, then why do they want to join the PILOT program, which would significantly decrease the amount they pay in taxes?

January 18 Meeting Minutes:

<https://pickaway.org/docs/minutes/January%202018,%202022%20Minutes%20-%20Website.pdf>

A question I want the Ohio Power Siting Board to think about is "How many solar farms does Pickaway County need? There are four other solar projects being installed in Pickaway County. Those are: Atlanta Farms, Yellowbud, Scioto Farms, and the Circleville Solar Project. I have heard talks of other solar farms, but these are the ones I know of for sure. Do we really need

5+ solar farms in Pickaway County? Think of how much Ohio farmland is being taken up by these solar projects. If that many projects are approved in each county, the agriculture sector of Ohio will suffer greatly, and may decrease Ohio's GDP.

Thank you for considering my concerns. I ask that you please DENY the Chipmunk Solar Project. I believe the Williamsport community will greatly suffer if the project is approved. Please contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,
Lyndsey Daum
lyndseydaum@gmail.com

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Summary: Public Comment of Lyndsey Daum, via website, electronically filed by
Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing