

FILE

March 29, 2022

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Case No 20-1084 EL BNC

To the members of the Ohio Siting Board

My name is Anna Mae Wenzlick and my home lies south of Miller City on State Route 613 and east of State Route 108 almost a fourth of a mile east.

I am writing this letter in regards to the Powell Creek Solar Farm along State Route 613, east and west of State Route 108 along County Road 13-C by the Miller City New Cleveland School.

My concern is the possibility of an outbreak of mosquito borne illness because of the water that lays on the ground after a good rain or a particularly wet fall. I've talked to Mr Jeff Reinkemeyer about this and he seems to think planting grass and native plants will take care of the problems. When we have heavy rains the water lays in the fields and yards for days and sometimes weeks. I and some other people think we should have some trenching in these fields to allow the water to get away. Otherwise there will be ponding in the fields. Also the ground dug up from the trenching could be used to plant vegetation on higher ground to camouflage the solar panels along the public roads.

Last summer in the field across from our house the farmer had his wagons full of straw bales stuck in the field for weeks because we got rain and it stayed too wet to get the wagon out.

Once this ground dries out it is like concrete. I'm concerned that over the years with no agricultural activity there will be no proper drainage even with tile in the fields leaving no way for water to get away.

My thinking is the wet ground and native plants will be an even better place for mosquitoes to breed. This ground is all heavy clay. That is why we have that big ditch along State Route 108. In its early days it was hand dug to drain the area.

Since 2000 our county has had sixteen cases of West Nile or encephalitis. The Putnam County Health Department said the doctors are not very good at reporting these cases, so who knows how many more there have been. I personally know of three cases of West Nile in our community alone. In talking with two Alt children that lived on County Road 13-C, one of them said he had been hospitalized for three days with encephalitis. This is what a case of encephalitis can look like.

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Our daughter was sick at home for a week. I had her to the doctor twice that week with fever, headache, and vomiting. They thought it was the flu. She was six years old and in first grade. By the time I got her to the hospital she weighed 35 pounds. She spent two weeks in the hospital. Then she got home and she was not allowed to go to school for a month and then only for half days. She started writing some of her numbers and letters backwards. She could read but she couldn't comprehend because she had to work so hard to focus on the line of print that she couldn't understand what she read. She had to get special glasses for her and she went to eye training for years. Thankfully, she learned what to do to succeed. In college she never bought a book because it was too difficult to do all the reading. She has been successful only because of the hard work on her part.

Now do you understand why I have such a great concern about this drainage of the ground. I just want this done right so a few years from now we aren't saying we shoulda coulda woulda!

Sincerely,

Anna Mae Wenzlick