From: Puco ContactOPSB
To: Puco Docketing
Subject: public comment 21-0868
Date: Tuesday, May 10, 2022 8:17:18 AM
Attachments: Dear Ohio Power Siting Board.docx

Dear Ohio Power Siting Board,

As a resident of Wayne Township in Pickaway County, I oppose the Scioto Farms Solar Project (Case No. 21-0868-EL-BGN). My family farm adjoins both the Yellowbud Solar Project to the south and the proposed Scioto Farms Solar Project to the north with only a half mile between the two projects. Part of the Yellowbud Solar Project can be seen from my parents house while the entire stretch of land that is signed up for the Scioto Farms Solar Project can be seen at my house. This farm that I grew up on and plan to raise my family on has been in my family for over a hundred years and been home to multiple generations of my family.

My family is not against solar and we even have solar panels on our barn roof which is where we believe most solar panels should be located. The use of productive farmland is not only a mistake but also irresponsible. There are many issues seen with the development of the Yellowbud Solar Project. The land in the Yellowbud Solar Project will not be able to return to cropland due to the scrapping of the topsoil, compacting, and damaging underground field tile. U.S. farmers are currently able to produce more food than is required but that won't always be the case with population growth, urban expansion, and industrialization. We also need to consider the unpredictable issues like the conflict in Ukraine along with the drought in South America that hopefully are temporary setbacks but also not the last issues that we will see.

It is concerning that these projects are being approved without properly testing the environmental impact or maybe more concerning is that we are going to be the guinea pigs to test the environmental impact. There is nothing to confirm the health concerns other than the common answer that we haven't seen issues and shouldn't be a problem. Questions have yet to be answered about the concerns of wildlife displacement, electromagnetic fields (EMF), fires, chemical leeching, soil erosion, and weather change. Candela claims that wildlife corridors will fix the issue that will come from blocking natural wildlife paths meanwhile the deer will be zigzagging into traffic on 104 while confusingly trying to find a path away from the road. EMF radiation and radio frequency interference with wifi, electrified metal structures, and cattle to avoid whole entire pastures by the Hillcrest Project in Brown County along with cattle dying in France from electrical currents found in the ground. Fires in solar fields might be my biggest worry since our volunteer fire department told us that they can't fight a fire in a solar field and would have to concentrate on moving nearby residents as far away as possible due to that there is no information or tests to show what is released into the air when these panels burn. The amount of solar fires is unknown since solar fires are classified as other and can be difficult to find information. One fire in California was start by a bird touching two wires. This brings more concerns since this whole project is in the natural flight path of migratory birds. There is evidence that these solar fields can cause a lake effect where birds view these project as a body of water. If approved, this project can use panels from Southeast Asia that do not follow U.S. manufacturing requirements and could contain a number of restricted chemicals like PHAS chemicals. These chemicals are labeled as forever chemicals and have harmed communities and livestock before being banned from U.S. manufacturing. A community in West Virginia was devastated by the PHAS chemicals that leeched into from a DuPont plant. Several communities

near Air Force Bases have found presents of PHAS chemicals in the water that have had devastating effect on livestock most of all dairy cows. Projects in other states are already pushing state governments to push new legislation against solar because water control issues. Computer projections have shown that a large enough solar project can cause changes in weather patterns like the study by the University of Illinois that concludes a large wind and solar project in the Sahara Desert would cause increase heat and rain eventuation making the area vegetative and more than like causing negative weather changes in other areas of the world. What is going to happen to my family and I if you approve us being in a half mile area between to projects.

The main defense for why these projects should happen is property owner rights and I agree that we need to protect these rights. This includes adjoining property owners rights that are protected by the local zoning that has been irresponsibly bypassed to push these projects into areas that they should never be considered without going through local zoning. Explain why there are so many exemptions for solar and wind power plants that don't apply to other types of power plants? Power plants should never be built on agriculturally zoned ground. Solar power plants are not considered agriculture or they would fall under CAUV. It would be a different story if this ground was zoned commercial or industrial which would clue in adjoining property owners to future development of something more extensive than 10 acre residential lots with a minimum width of 400 feet.

Another defense is the money to go into the county and schools along with the local jobs. This is yet to be seen since no project in the state has yet to pay into the county or schools. If funds from solar go to the schools then there is a worry that state funding will be deducted like shown with the lottery funding in the past. As for the "local" workers that actually are going to be the same group of workers moving around from one project to the next meeting the national requirement of a 500 mile radius to be considered local. Nice to know that we are going to have local workers that can be from the east coast.

This project will not benefit our community or meet the needs that it is set to meet. The property owners signed up for this project are not residents of the area and do not farm the land. Solar is unable to fill the electrical grid at peak hours and will have a negative effect with reducing carbon. The loss of crops that take in large amounts of carbon along with the mining of materials and manufacturing of the panels is hard to ever offset.

The approval of this project will have a devastating blow to the farmers and the people who live out here. Both the township trustees and county commissioners have opposed this project because they see this project and others will have a negative impact to this area. I hope that you listen to the people who live in the area and deny this project.

Sincerely,

Wesley Ebenhack

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Case No(s). 21-0868-EL-BGN

Summary: Public Comment of Wesley Ebenhack, via website, electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing