

**BEFORE
THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD**

In the Matter of the Application of Birch :
Solar 1, LLC for a Certificate of : Case No. 20-1605-EL-BGN
Environmental Compatibility and Public :
Need. :
:
:
:

**PREFILED TESTIMONY
OF
Andrew Conway**

**ON BEHALF OF THE STAFF OF THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO,
POWER SITING DEPARTMENT**

STAFF EX. ____

May 11, 2022

1 1. Q. Please state your name and business address.

2 A. My name is Andrew Conway, and my business address is 180 East Broad
3 Street, Columbus, OH 43215.

4

5 2. Q. By whom are you employed and what is your position?

6 A. I am employed by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) as a
7 Utility Specialist II within the Power Siting Department.

8

9 3. Q. Please describe your job title and duties?

10 A. As a Utility Specialist II focusing on engineering in the Power Siting
11 Department, I review technical issues associated with energy infrastructure
12 design, construction, and operation. I work as a case lead or in assigned areas
13 of Applications for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public
14 Need to construct major utility facilities and economically significant wind
15 farms, and other duties.

16

17 I have provided analysis on multiple projects, including wind farms, solar
18 facilities, and natural gas combined cycle power plants submitted to the Ohio
19 Power Siting Board (Board). I have also inspected and visited numerous
20 power plants in various stages of design, construction, and operation.

21

1 4. Q. Would you please summarize your educational background and work
2 experience?

3 A. I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering and minor in
4 Chemistry from the University of Toledo. I am also a registered professional
5 engineer in the State of Ohio. I attended a Solar Photovoltaic Project Design
6 and Development training workshop in August 2016. I successfully
7 completed the Electronics Technicians Association (ETA) certified 5-day
8 Photovoltaic Level 1 Design/Installation Course in January 2017. I also took
9 training courses specific to geotechnical exploration, renewable energy
10 installation, and safety.

11
12 From 2001 to 2009, I was employed by the Ohio Environmental Protection
13 Agency as an environmental specialist. From 2009 to present, I have been
14 employed in my current position at the PUCO.

15
16 5. Q. Have you testified in prior proceedings before the Ohio Power Siting Board?

17 A. Yes.

18
19 6. Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?

20 A. I am sponsoring portions of the Staff Report of Investigation Recommending
21 Denial of Certificate (Staff Report) that was filed on October 20, 2021 and
22 where I was a staff analyst. Specifically, I was a Staff analyst for portions of

1 the Staff Report pertaining to project description, Co-location of Sheep
2 Grazing Vegetation Management, glare, decommissioning, aviation, safety,
3 and electromagnetic fields.

4
5 7. Q. Are you responsible for any specific conditions in the Staff Report? If so,
6 which ones?

7 A. Yes. I am sponsoring conditions 12, 41, 42, 43, and 44.

8
9 8. Q. In the event the Board grants a certificate for the project, why is Staff
10 recommending condition 12?

11 A. This condition outlines the elements that Staff expects to see in a sufficient
12 grazing plan. These elements would assure the Board that the facility has put
13 forethought in plans for where and when sheep grazing would occur. Also,
14 the plan would assure the Board that manure and livestock would be
15 managed properly.

16
17 9. Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

18 A. Yes, it does. However, I reserve the right to submit supplemental testimony
19 as new information subsequently becomes available or in response to
20 positions taken by other parties.

PROOF OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing Prefiled Testimony of Andrew Conway, submitted on behalf of the Staff of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Power Siting Department, was served via electronic mail, upon the following parties of record, this 11th day of May 2022.

/s/Jodi J. Bair

Jodi J. Bair
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**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities
Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

5/11/2022 1:36:46 PM

in

Case No(s). 20-1605-EL-BGN

Summary: Testimony of Andrew Conway electronically filed by Mrs. Tonnetta Y.
Scott on behalf of OPSB