

**BEFORE  
THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD**

<b>In the Matter of the Application of</b>	:	
<b>Birch Solar 1, LLC for a Certificate of</b>	:	
<b>Environmental Compatibility and Public</b>	:	<b>Case No. 20-1605-EL-BGN</b>
<b>Need for a Solar Facility Located in Allen</b>	:	
<b>County and Auglaize County, Ohio.</b>	:	

**PREFILED TESTIMONY  
OF**

**Thomas J. Crawford, PhD, PE**

**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 Thomas Crawford, 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 or  
7 Commission) as an Electric Energy Specialist within the Power Siting  
8 Department.  
9

10 3. Q. Please summarize your educational background.

11 A. I received a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering, Magna cum  
12 Laude, and a Master of Science in Nuclear Engineering from the University  
13 of Cincinnati. Additionally, I have received a Master of Science degree in  
14 Mechanical Engineering and a Doctor of Philosophy in Mechanical  
15 Engineering from Drexel University. I have also taken a number of courses  
16 in Computer Science from Franklin University, and I have taken several  
17 graduate-level courses in recent years in Mechanical Engineering and  
18 Nuclear Engineering at The Ohio State University.  
19

20 4. Q. Please summarize your work experience.

1       A.     Beginning in August 2020, I was employed by Alpha-Rae Personnel, Inc.  
2             and assigned as a contractor to the PUCO. My duties included writing the  
3             *Project Description and Need* section of the accelerated Cases and the  
4             *Electric Grid* portion of the Staff Report of Investigation for major Solar  
5             Facility Projects. I have been working directly with the PUCO since August  
6             2021. My duties continue to be the writing of the *Project Description and*  
7             *Need* section of the accelerated Cases and the *Electric Grid* section and  
8             now the *Wind Velocity* section of the Staff Reports of Investigation for  
9             major Solar Facility Projects. From March 2002 until May 2018, I was an  
10            Adjunct Instructor and a Tutor in Physics, Engineering Fundamentals, and  
11            Natural Science at Columbus State Community College. The Fisher  
12            College of Business utilized me as an Adjunct Instructor in Statistics from  
13            January 2005 until December 2006. At American Electric Power from  
14            December 1984 until February 2002, I was involved in Technical  
15            Assessment and Analysis of Nuclear, Coal-fired, and Hydroelectric Plants  
16            on the AEP System. These responsibilities involved considerable computer  
17            programming, and some additional programming activities involved  
18            preparations for what has become known as Y2K. I was also an engineer  
19            with the Philadelphia Electric Company doing nuclear core analysis,  
20            refueling requirements, control rod sequencing reviews, spent fuel handling  
21            and storage, and analysis of radiation shielding requirements from July  
22            1978 until August 1981. As a graduate student, in 1981 through 1982, I was

1 an instructor in the Shift Technical Advisor program for the proposed  
2 Zimmer Nuclear Station near Cincinnati, Ohio.

3  
4 5. Q. Have you testified in prior proceedings before the Ohio Power Siting Board?

5 A. Yes.

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

8 A. I am sponsoring a portion of the Staff Report of Investigation. I prepared  
9 the *Wind Velocity* section of the Staff Report of Investigation, which was  
10 filed October 20, 2021.

11  
12 7. Q. Are you responsible for any specific conditions in the Staff Report? If so,  
13 which ones?

14 A. No, there are no Conditions related to Wind Velocity.

15  
16 8. Q. In the event the Board grants a certificate for the project, why is Staff  
17 recommending these conditions?

18 A. Not Applicable.

1    9.    Q.    Does this conclude your testimony?

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

## PROOF OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing Prefiled Testimony of Thomas J. Crawford, 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 11<sup>th</sup> day of May 2022.

*/s/Jodi J. Bair*

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**Jodi J. Bair**  
Assistant Attorney General

### Parties of Record:

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Summary: Testimony of Thomas Crawford electronically filed by Mrs. Tonneta Y.  
Scott on behalf of OPSB