

**BEFORE
THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD**

In the Matter of the Application of Wild :
Grains Solar, LLC for a Certificate of : Case No. 21-0823-EL-BGN
Environmental Compatibility and Public :
Need. :
:

**PREFILED TESTIMONY
OF
Mark Bellamy
ON BEHALF OF THE STAFF OF THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO
POWER SITING DEPARTMENT**

STAFF EX. ____

May 19, 2022

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

2 A. My name is Mark C. Bellamy. My business address is 180 East Broad
3 Street, Columbus, Ohio 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 in the Facility Review and Compliance Division of the
8 Power Siting Department.
9

10 3. Q. Please summarize your educational background.

11 A. My education includes earning a Bachelor of Science in Education degree in
12 Chemistry from Arkansas State University.
13

14 4. Q. Please summarize your work experience.

15 A. Prior to my employment with the PUCO, I served six years in the U.S. Navy
16 as a Machinist's Mate on a submarine. I operated and maintained
17 atmosphere control equipment, as well as performed duties as a quality
18 assurance inspector. After the Navy, I was employed as a high school
19 science teacher. I joined the staff of the PUCO in 2009. My duties include
20 review and analysis of power siting cases.

1 5. Q. Have you testified in prior proceedings before the Ohio Power Siting Board
2 (Board)?

3 A. Yes. I have testified in numerous proceedings before the Board.
4

5 6. Q. What kind of case is this?

6 A. The Applicant proposes to develop, construct, and operate a 150 MW solar
7 powered electric generation facility to be located in Van Wert County, Ohio.
8

9 7. Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?

10 A. I served as the overall Staff Project Lead for the investigation that resulted in
11 the Staff Report of Investigation (Staff Report) that was filed April 18, 2022,
12 in this docket. I managed the Staff investigation and preparation of the Staff
13 Report in this case. I am sponsoring the Staff Report subsections titled
14 “Minimum adverse,” “Cultural resources,” “Land use,” “Regional
15 planning,” “Recreation,” and “Noise.”
16

17 8. Q. Are you sponsoring any general conditions in the Staff Report?

18 A. I am sponsoring Staff Report conditions not specially addressed by other
19 staff witnesses, including conditions 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 9, 10, 12, and 13.

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9. Q. Are you sponsoring any specific conditions in the Staff Report If so, which ones?

A. Yes. I am sponsoring conditions 18, 19, and 20.

10. Q. Why is Staff recommending condition 18?

A. In response to community concerns about the aesthetics of the project, Staff is requiring a fence that fits in better in a rural environment. Staff also requires the fence allow the passage of small wildlife.

11. Q. Why is Staff recommending condition 19?

A. While Staff acknowledges that some construction noise impacts are inevitable, Staff recommends that most construction activities that can result in noise impacts to the public be limited to hours when the majority of people in the vicinity of the project are awake. Impact pile driving, and hoe ram operations, which are very loud construction activities, would be limited to shorter windows of daytime hours than that allowed for general construction activities.

1 12. Q. Why is Staff recommending condition 20?

2 A. The sound report in the application modeled operational noise impacts using
3 sound data from representative inverters and substation transformers.

4 Condition 20 requires the applicant to operate the facility so that no non-
5 participating receptor shall receive operational sound impacts greater than
6 ambient sound levels plus 5 dBA, further condition 20 requires the
7 Applicant show that the chosen inverters and substation transformers for the
8 project will not exceed the daytime ambient level plus five dBA at any non-
9 participating sensitive receptor.

10

11 13. Q. What is Staff's recommendation concerning the Applicant's recommended
12 changes to Staff report conditions?

13 A. The Applicant's project manager Jeffery Reinkemeyer submitted testimony
14 and suggested changes to conditions 17, 18, 24, and 26.

15 The first change in condition 17, states "and/or shall provide for crops to be
16 planted on the perimeter of the project that would help maintain the existing
17 agricultural viewshed if desired by the community." Staff rejects this
18 recommendation. While crops can, during crop growing season, provide
19 vegetative screening, the seasonal nature of crops provides no screening
20 outside of the crop growing season.

1 The second change in condition 17 and the change in condition 18, states
2 “The determination that a fence type is “aesthetically fitting” may be
3 demonstrated by the Applicant through written feedback from local
4 government officials, landowners, and project neighbors.” Staff rejects this
5 change. The aesthetics of the perimeter fence affects more than local
6 government officials, landowners, and project neighbors. The aesthetics of
7 the perimeter fence also affects other community members and the travelling
8 public.

9 The suggested change to condition 24 is adding, “in the vicinity of the well”
10 to the last sentence. Staff rejects this change. It is Staff’s opinion that
11 complying with this condition prior to construction is not burdensome.

12 The suggested change to condition 26 is the correction of a typo. Staff
13 agrees to this change.

14

15 14. Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

16 A. Yes, it does. However, I reserve the right to submit supplemental testi-
17 mony, as new information subsequently becomes available or in response to
18 positions taken by other parties.

PROOF OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing Prefiled Testimony of Mark Bellamy, 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 19th day of May 2022.

/s/

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Summary: Testimony of Mark Bellamy electronically filed by Mrs. Tonneta Y. Scott
on behalf of OPSB