

**From:** [Puco ContactOPSB](#)  
**To:** [Puco Docketing](#)  
**Subject:** public comment 20-1605-EL-BGN  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 12, 2022 9:55:50 AM  
**Attachments:** [7-12-2022 Comment Letter signed.pdf](#)

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# Sanitary Engineering Department

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July 12, 2022

Ohio Power Siting Board  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: Comment-Birch Solar 1 Pending Case No, 20-1605-EL-BGN

Dear Board:

I have recently been appointed as the Sanitary Engineer for Allen County, Ohio. As Sanitary Engineer, I wish to express opposition to the subject solar project. The previous Sanitary Engineer, Mr. Steve Kayatin penned the letter below last October and I am in opposition of the proposed solar project for the same reasons described below.

*I am writing to the Board in opposition to the subject solar project. I am an appointed person of the Board of County Commissioners, Allen County, Ohio assigned the responsibility to oversee and manage the Allen County, Ohio Sanitary Sewer District in accordance with the statutes of Sections 6117 and 6103 of the Ohio Revised Code. One of my primary duties is to facilitate the development and expansion of our public sanitary sewer infrastructure providing for the ability to expand residential, industrial, retail and commercial development within our County Sewer District.*

*Our mission and goal as a County utility is to ensure that potable water supplies and sanitary sewer disposal service are available to support development through the planning established within long range planning of water and sewer utilities. In order for the County to cost effectively facilitate infrastructure development providing service to current residents with failing private on-lot treatment systems and future land development initiatives it is paramount to support land use that will provide for residential, industrial, retail and commercial development. This will ensure that centralized potable water and sanitary sewer facilities are able to be constructed in a fiscally feasible manner. Utility systems are initially planned, developed and constructed in a manner taking into account an economy of scale with growth and consolidation of utility systems.*

*The construction of the Birch Solar 1 Project as presented would eliminate the ability for the County to expand its sanitary sewer collection system within the Shawnee Sewer Sub-district due to the loss of developable land and making it extremely difficult to serve current residents in an economically feasible manner. This project would be constructing a virtual wall along our current southern border of the Shawnee Sewer Sub-district collection system making it financially impossible to complete further expansion south of the County's water and sewer infrastructure.*

Please contact my office for any questions.

Sincerely,

Brad Niemeyer, P.E.  
Sanitary Engineer – Allen County, Ohio

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**in**

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

Summary: Public Comment Public comment of Brad Niemeyer, P.E. via website,  
electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing