

Attention Siting Board,

This letter serves as my opposition to Birch Solar's proposed project, case 20-1605-el-bgn. As a resident that is directly affected by this proposed project (residence at 4400 W. Breese Road), I urge you to reject the project. My concerns include the following items.

There are not enough studies that prove that industrial size solar projects in residential areas are not harmful to human habitation. The majority of the proposed project area are residents that depend on wells as the sole source of water provided to our homes. Can you personally guarantee that the run-off from the panels will have no health affect on us as residents? NO, you cannot.

This is an industrial size solar project that should never infiltrate residential housing developments, nor should it be permitted in area zoned through local government rules without the direct authority of those representing the people living in that area. Those representatives are the local Shawnee Township Trustees. We vote them into office to represent us in matters that directly affect us. These trustees do not put money before the health and wellness of the residents like big companies, or board representatives with a monetary stake in the project, therefore trying to push the project through to the benefit of someone's wallet.

Most of the residents in these areas choose to live in the area we do for the natural environment, nature, wildlife and beauty of the area. To blur the surroundings with industrial solar panels that will consume thousands of acres would be a detriment to that habitat. The loss of flora and fauna would be irreplaceable for generations, if ever due to ground contamination.

In the economic climate of today, risking the reduction of property values by allowing the project would not only affect the property owners, the local school district and the township, it would compare to stealing of food sources for years to come. The thousands of acres involved in the project area are tillable land and would most likely become nothing more than abandoned Brownfield land after the project and being of little or no value at that point.

A local group is trying to convince the local residents, this Siting Board and the media that the opposition to this project is dwindling, when in fact that is far from the truth. In petitions presented to Shawnee Township, there are less than 7% of the signatures that were Shawnee Township residents, and less than that of those directly affected by the project. When I got to a name of a gentleman, that I personally know, that has lived his life with a traumatic brain injury and does not have the mental capability to understand what he was signing, I stopped reading. I knew at that point the committee was willing to do whatever it took to get signatures. The lies, manipulation and the willingness to do whatever it takes to garner support is evident and nothing more than the same unethical schemes that have been displayed by Birch Solar.

I could go on and on with reasons that this INDUSTRIAL project does not belong in a RESIDENTAL community. The destruction of our roadways throughout the project, the months of mess from construction, the noise of the construction, the maintenance during and after the completion of the project, traffic of heavy equipment in residential areas, the dirt and dust from construction, safety, contamination, the fact that the energy will not benefit our community, decline in property values, but most importantly the majority of our community STILL does not want this project. To say that

opposition has diminished because a couple of "loud opponents" were shut down with nothing more than a "gag order" by an agreement made with Birch Solar, does not reflect the general opinion of the majority of land owners in Shawnee Township.

As board members this is not your residents, your property or even your community. Remember that, and think about how you would personally feel if an industrial project was put next to your own home. How your spouse would feel. What would be the long term affect on your property value. What would be the long term affect on land, wildlife and food sources. Would you trust that your children will have no ill affects later in life due to drinking contaminated well water!! Ask yourself those questions! I ask that you shut down and dismissed this project without approval.

Being Ohio residents, think about the fact that we have the world's largest amusement park, Cedar Point, and yet it only consumes 300 acres of land! This proposed project and it's permitted area is more than 6 times the amount of ground Cedar Point covers. That is outlandish and most certainly INDUSTRIAL!

Also, consider that chemicals such as PFAS/GenX are used in/on the solar panels and the EPA's new assessment ( October 2021) suggests GenX is as toxic, if not more so, than many other types of PFAS and YOU will be responsible for allowing toxic chemicals to potentially sicken, injure, or kill flora, fauna and/or humans by poisoning our community ...and you should be held liable as such should you approve this project!

Sincerely,

Michele VanMeter

W. Breese Road

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. VanMeter", written in a cursive style.

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities  
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**Case No(s). 20-1605-EL-BGN**

Summary: Public Comment of Michele VanMeter, via website, electronically filed by  
Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing