

Ohio Power Siting Board  
180 E. Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Karina Stone, Biologist  
16017 Smith Road  
Kensington, Ohio 44427

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Case No: 21-0764-EL-BGN

Dear Ohio Power Siting Board:

The proposed Kensington Solar Project will not benefit the local citizenry and as a trained biologist, I strongly oppose it.

This project will negatively and drastically affect my life and my family, and the ecology.

I have genuine scientific concerns about this project, concerns which have not been addressed.

### **Limited Sunlight**

As a scientist it boggles my mind how anyone can think locating this project here in Northeast Ohio is a good idea. My studies all show solar energy to be one of the least efficient energy resources in the world. Ohio only has full or partial sun 44% of day-time hours. Furthermore, solar energy is non-sustainable because the materials used in the manufacturing of solar panels will eventually be exhausted.

Natural gas is a very efficient and clean way to generate power and this community is blessed with that resource. If electricity is needed, build a gas-powered plant. You might possibly receive support for that.

## **Destructive Environmental Impact**

From a scientific perspective, how anybody can imagine this project to be environmentally friendly or even neutral, leaves me bewildered. The project's environmental impact will be decidedly detrimental to our community's environment. Rich farmland will be forever destroyed and raise the price of food. Wildlife habitat will be destroyed, and wildlife food sources diminished.

## **Fencing Destroys Ecosystems**

39.3 miles of fencing alone is a great ecological concern. Scientific studies show fences can affect ecosystems at every scale. Fences alone can lead to the collapse of entire ecosystems.

Fences cause barriers of the daily movement of animals as well as those that migrate seasonally. Fences separate and deter young animals thereby making them vulnerable to predation. Fences destruct habitat and impede wildlife access to water and forage. Fences fragments and isolates ecosystems. Fences increase disease transmission by concentrating animals.

Ecologists recently started studying the long-term impacts of fencing factors and the latest studies show the negative impact fences cause is more far-reaching than initially thought.

Were you aware that increased fencing increases the building of spiderwebs which in turn dramatically decreases the insect population which in turn decreases the insect-eating bird population which ultimately affects the entire food web? Fencing—more than 39 miles of fencing for this crazy project, is ecological suicide. What are people thinking?

Even when fences are later removed, studies show wildlife still adheres to fence boundaries, making so-called "ghost fences." The impact of >39 miles of fences will continue years after this project runs its course. So much fencing will injure and kill many of the wildlife along the fence lines.

## **Access Roads Destroy Ecology**

The ecological impact of the project's access roads is also a serious ecological concern. More than thirty-seven miles of new access roads requiring more than seventy-seven tons of gravel for those roads means irreversible ecological trouble.

Roads fragment habitats, increase water and air pollution and result in increased vehicle collisions with wildlife. How many deer, ground hogs, fox, racoons, mice, birds, opossums, skunks, butterflies, moths, ants, beetles, and worms will be killed and injured by the added thousands of vehicle trips in this area? And what percentage of these populations will this needless project destroy?

### **Subterranean Cables Damage the Environment**

The installation of three-million twenty-eight thousand four-hundred and thirty feet of underground collection cables will negatively impact subterranean life which directly and negatively impacts soil quality, water quality and every other aspect of the ecology.

Locating the solar project here will negatively impact all ecosystems.

### **Habitat Loss of Endangered Bird Species**

An endangered bird species, the Northern Harrier, dwells in the proposed project area. The Northern Harrier is endangered due to habitat loss.

Thousands of acres of solar panels and 39 miles of seven-foot prison fencing will only reduce this specie's habitat and deepen its plight. A decrease in this bird's population will impact the rodent population in this area which will negatively impact the surrounding farmland, as the rodent population increases.

### **Endangering Bald Eagles**

Also, not-long-ago-endangered Bald Eagles also live in this area. My family spots them often. What degree of negative impact will this crazy project have on our national symbol, Bald Eagles?

### **Increased Bird Mortality**

Solar panels also contribute to increased bird mortality. We scientists are not yet sure why this happens but we suspect it is what we term, 'lake -effect.' 'Lake-effect' occurs when birds mistake fields of solar panels for bodies of water and then dive into them, resulting in death.

## **Negative Impact on Biodiversity**

Installation of solar panels will also negatively affect biodiversity. A solar panel project requires large removal of vegetation, including several native species. The land slated for this project will be covered with either packed dirt, gravel, mowed grass or concrete, resulting in stress for plant communities and the animals that rely on them for food and habitat.

Every small environmental disturbance affects the ecosystem, and this project is a major disturbance. This project poses a significant threat to this area with its large-scale environmental disturbances, both above and below the ground. It will not benefit the community.

## **Contamination of Drinking Water Source**

Our existing drinking water well is less than 100ft from the proposed solar panel project. How will these panels be cleaned and deiced, and how will the runoff contaminate our well? I need to know.

Solar Panels contain Selenium, Lead and Cadmium, heavy metals strictly regulated by the US EPA, US CDC and US FDA. What will keep these contaminants out of our drinking water, the local ground water and surface water?

What chemical solution will be used to deice the panels? Kensington Solar 1's application states "water" but water is a solid when deicing is required. Water cannot be used to deice anything. Who truly believes Kensington Solar 1 will use water as its deicing solution? Whatever the real deicing agent is, it will create runoff.

## **Hazardous Runoff**

All runoff from the project area flows into Beaver Creek, an inflow of the Ohio River. What safeguards are in place to prevent an environmental disaster if a tornado or sustained winds destroy the solar panels? Windstorms are common here. Last year a sustained windstorm topped 60 mph. One of our metal trashcans was found over 0.5 miles away from our home smashed against a fence. I have seen pictures of what high winds do to a solar farm. Winds can create an ecological disaster.

## **Solar Panels Contain Regulated Heavy Metals & Known Carcinogens**

Solar panels contain heavy metals and known carcinogens which are highly regulated by the US EPA, the US FDA and the US CDC. Lead, Selenium and Cadmium harm people, animals and the land. How long before these toxic metals leach into the groundwater and into our well? How will we know when our well—which does not appear on Kensington Solar 1's water source map, is unsafe to drink from? Will this project prove itself like the infamous Love Canal and we'll know when our children contract cancer? Will runoff from this project poison Beaver Creek and the Ohio River, and kill the flora, fauna and wildlife that depend on the local streams for water? From a scientific perspective, this is a real concern of mine.

## **Harmful EMF Radiation**

I am also concerned about the harmful electromagnetic radiation that this industrial power project will have on my family and our pets. Our home shares property lines with the project and we are surrounded by the project's boundaries. Will my family be at risk of cancer or other health issues caused by the increased radiation exposure?

Although some believe solar panels themselves do not emit enough radiation to be dangerous, my concern regards radiation is in the power conversion from DC to AC. Converting energy from DC to AC does create significant amounts of micro-surge electrical pollution, also called 'dirty electricity.' Scientists have known for many decades that micro-surge electrical pollution causes harmful amounts of EMF radiation, and EMF Radiation causes cancer, chronic fatigue syndrome, neurotransmitter issues and many more serious health issues. What entity will be responsible for protecting the health of my family, the residents of this community and the thousands of cows and extensive wildlife populations?

## **Child Safety**

From a safety standpoint, the staging area for this project will be right across the street from our home, not 50 ft. (fifty-feet) distant. I am concerned that the large number of trucks and the tens-of-thousands of trips they will make right beside our home poses a dire safety hazard to my children who enjoy riding their bikes, taking their dog for walks, and walking on these now quiet and safe country roads. Other children live in the area as well. What of their safety?

## **Personal Concerns**

My family and I reside in a home that will be encircled by the project's boundaries. We chose to move into this neighborhood because we desire a quiet, safe, and friendly environment in which to raise our children. I am concerned about my family's safety on several levels, none of which have been adequately addressed.

## **No Benefits to Our Community**

By my calculus, the ultimate costs of this project far outweigh any supposed benefits. By placing this project here, you are potentially benefitting one non-resident landowner at the expense of our entire community, plus my family, plus a beautiful historic church, plus the environment, plus at least one endangered species.

**This massive industrial project will not benefit our community in any way whatsoever.**

The electricity generated by these solar panels does not provide electricity to this neighborhood and it will not lower our electrical costs. There is no legitimate reason to put this project here or anywhere in Ohio for that matter. The deserts of Arizona, Southern California, Nevada, and Utah make much better sense for a solar project.

This project offers zero benefits for any residents of Kensington. Thank you for doing the right thing and immediately stopping this senseless project.

Yours very truly,

Karina Stone, Biologist

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