

From: [Puco ContactOPSB](#)
To: [Puco Docketing](#)
Subject: public comment 21-0902
Date: Friday, September 2, 2022 4:41:17 PM

From: Gary Houser <garyhouser4@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 2, 2022 4:36 PM
To: Puco ContactOPSB <contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov>
Subject: *COMMENT RE: ADOPTION OF NEW RULES GOVERNING OPSB DECISIONS*

COMMENT RE: ADOPTION OF NEW RULES GOVERNING OPSB DECISIONS

I live in SE Ohio and create educational video resources that are used to raise public awareness about the climate topic, and have been active on this issue for the past 12 years. Over the last two decades, a huge volume of information about our changing climate has been produced by the world's scientific community. But the great majority of that information is in the form of reports and articles which use a highly technical language. I seek to use the video medium to translate these findings into a simpler form that is more easily accessible to the public.

While tracking these findings over the past 12 years, I cannot help but observe how the warnings from these scientists have become increasingly urgent. The reason is that scientists now recognize the great fragility of our climate and the potential for a much more rapid deterioration of the ecosystems that sustain life than we ever thought possible just a short time ago.

The average citizen does not realize that the lengthy reports released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [IPCC] has an executive summary that must be agreed to by all 195 countries. Anyone who has had to hammer out a consensus agreement realizes that content must often be "watered down" to make this possible. This fact is what makes the concluding summary of the latest [early 2022] international report all the more remarkable.

Here is the single most important sentence in that report:

"Any further delay will miss a brief and rapidly closing window of

opportunity to secure a livable and sustainable future for all.” [from descriptive article in Time magazine] [1]

What is the meaning of the words: “*miss a brief and rapidly closing window*” ? They mean that climate disruption is not a linear process whereby changes simply continue in a gradual process forward. Instead humanity is lurching toward a tipping point “cliff,” and if we tumble over that cliff the worsening consequences will spin out of human control. This reality is explained in an excellent documentary broadcast on PBS Public Television last December [2], which had access to incomparably more funding and resources than I am able to tap into for the videos I produce.

Human-generated greenhouse gases are now triggering natural forces that are accelerating the speed and magnitude of the warming. A classic example is the thawing of Arctic permafrost. As that permafrost melts, it is releasing vast quantities of its own CO₂ and methane. It is estimated to hold over FOUR TIMES as much greenhouse gas as has been released by humanity ever since the beginning of the Industrial Age. [3] Scientists call this the “Arctic sleeping giant.”

Most comment submitters will utilize links leading to sources that are documents or articles. I am directing you to a video documentary because that medium can present a ***far more complete case*** to you. It can show you the ***visuals that back up the words and make them much more meaningful.***

These IPCC reports are talking about a tremendous impact on the human condition. We are already seeing the beginnings of these impacts, but if the tipping point is crossed there will be literally hundreds of millions of human beings subjected to debilitating heat waves, and whose water and food supplies will be severely disrupted. This in turn can lead to mass migration and the destabilizing and toppling of governments.

The climate of the earth is an interconnected global system. We here in Ohio may not be on the leading edge of the most serious breakdowns in life support systems, but those disruptions are guaranteed to make their way here. Every single one of us is going to be affected in the most profound way, and it will occur in the coming decades as opposed to

some distant and abstract future.

As the scientific community strives to issue this warning as strenuously as it can, ***it is incomprehensible to me that the issue of climate breakdown is not even being considered as a criteria when the OPSB is making its decisions in regard to the approval of solar or wind farms in this state.***

I hereby request that the following language be included in the update of OPSB rules:

"Due to the overwhelming consensus of the world's scientific community - as expressed in the IPCC reports that represent the concerns of its 195 member nations - that the climate crisis is not only real but threatening to spin out of human control unless sufficient preventive action is taken, the OPSB hereby commits to the inclusion of climate disruption as a necessary and required criterion which must be taken into account in all decisions related to the approval of electric power facilities in the state of Ohio."

I ask if a representative of OPSB will please send a brief reply in order to confirm that your office has successfully received this comment. THANK YOU !!

Gary Houser Founder of the Point of No Return Media Project
19 Town St.
Glouster, Ohio 45732

SOURCE LINKS:

1] Time magazine: *"Window to Adapt to Climate Change Is 'Rapidly Closing,' Warns the IPCC"* <https://time.com/6152183/ipcc-report-climate-change-adaptation/>

2] PBS/Public TV documentary excerpts:
<https://feedbackloopsclimate.com/>

[each excerpt only approximately 11 minutes long]

3] Video produced by NASA [time point 1:50]
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hZSM8GcmJKg>

--



*'The Eyes of the Future are looking back at us,
and they are praying that we might see beyond our own time.'*
- Terry Tempest Williams

CAUTION: This is an external email and may not be safe. If the email looks suspicious, please do not click links or open attachments and forward the email to csc@ohio.gov or click the Phish Alert Button if available.

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities
Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

9/2/2022 5:19:42 PM

in

Case No(s). 21-0902-GE-BRO

Summary: Public Comment of Gary Houser, via website, electronically filed by
Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing