

**BEFORE  
THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD**

<b>In the Matter of the Application of Grover</b>	<b>:</b>	
<b>Hill Wind, LLC for a Certificate of</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>Case No. 20-0417-EL-BGN</b>
<b>Environmental Compatibility and Public</b>	<b>:</b>	
<b>Need</b>	<b>:</b>	

**PREFILED TESTIMONY  
OF**

**James S. O'Dell**

**ON BEHALF OF THE STAFF OF THE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO,  
POWER SITING DEPARTMENT**

**STAFF EX. \_\_\_\_**

**October 12, 2022**

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

2           A.     My name is James S. O'Dell, and my business address is 180 East Broad  
3           Street, Columbus OH 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 (Commission) as  
7           a senior Siting Specialist in the Power Siting Department.

8

9     3.     Q.     Please summarize your educational background and work experience.

10          A.     I hold bachelor's degrees from The Ohio State University in Political Science  
11          (1988) and Sociology (1997). Additionally, I received a master's degree in  
12          City and Regional Planning from The Ohio State University in 1992. I also  
13          have significant course work completed towards a master's degree in Public  
14          Policy from Central Michigan University.

15

16          I have been employed by the Commission since 1991. I have worked  
17          almost exclusively on power siting activities during that time. I have  
18          developed analysis for over 550 cases before the Ohio Power Siting Board  
19          (Board). My responsibilities typically include application review and the  
20          preparation of analysis for major utility facilities and economically  
21          significant wind farms in Ohio. Additionally, I process and review Letters  
22          of Notification and Construction Notices. In the past, I also have been the

1 primary author for the Board's annual reports. I have been the lead analyst  
2 in excess of 55 standard applications, responsible for the preparation of  
3 staff reports and coordination of Staff review and field work for major  
4 utility facilities and economically significant wind farms.

5  
6 4. Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?

7 A. I served as the overall Staff Project Lead for the investigation that resulted  
8 in the Staff Report of Investigation (Staff Report) that was filed January 24,  
9 2022, and the supplement to the Staff Report that was docketed on  
10 September 9, 2022. I managed the Staff investigation and preparation of the  
11 Staff Report and supplement in this case. In addition, as a signatory party,  
12 Staff supports the Joint Stipulation that was filed in this docket on October  
13 7, 2022.

14  
15 5. Q. What kind of case is this?

16 A. The Applicant proposes to construct, own, and operate a 150 MW wind-  
17 powered generating facility in Latty Township, Paulding County, Ohio.

18  
19 6. Q. Please summarize Staff's investigation that was conducted in this case.

20 A. Staff's investigation included reviewing the application, conducting site  
21 visits to the proposed facility location, acquiring additional information  
22 from the Applicant, obtaining input from state agencies that compose the

1 Board along with other relevant state and federal agencies, and preparing a  
2 Staff Report of Investigation that presents Staff's analysis, conclusions, and  
3 recommendations. As a result of Staff's investigation, Staff recommends  
4 that the Board approve the application, subject to the 51 conditions that are  
5 presented in the Stipulation.  
6

7 7. Q. What impacts did Staff review for the project in arriving at this conclusion?

8 A. Staff reviewed various types of land use impacts including residential,  
9 recreational, institutional, ecological, cultural resources, transportation,  
10 agricultural, and overall geological suitability. Staff also reviewed the  
11 financial, noise, safety, and aesthetic impacts of the project. Finally, Staff  
12 evaluated the Applicant's facility decommissioning plans.  
13

14 8. Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

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

## **PROOF OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing **Prefiled Testimony of James S. O'Dell**, 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 12<sup>th</sup> day of October 2022.

/s/ Shaun Lyons

**Shaun Lyons**

Assistant Attorney General

### **Parties of Record:**

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**Case No(s). 20-0417-EL-BGN**

Summary: Testimony Prefiled Testimony of James S. O'Dell on Behalf of the Staff of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Power Siting Department electronically filed by Mrs. Kimberly M. Naeder on behalf of OPSB