

FILE

For the case file record: 22-0549-EL-BGN, 22-0550-EL-BTX

OPSB CITING BOARD,

I am writing regarding the Oak Run Solar project. I am a rural resident who would be adversely affected by the project. This project will permanently affect and alter over 6,000 acres in 3 townships in Madison County. I stand with the 3 townships (Somerford, Monroe, Deercreek) that oppose this project. This project will bring massive flooding from broken drainage tiles. Dirt excavating will cause excessive water runoff onto other properties. Overtime, there will be toxic leaching into several aquifers, established drainage ditches, streams, other waterways, and bodies of water like Lake Choctaw. They plan to wash around 2 million panels which will use over 500,000 gallons of well water. The water will wash toxins off micro-cracked panels each time they wash them. This project will alter the wildlife access to food and cost the local farmers in the townships millions of dollars a year in deer and other wildlife damage. There was a study in 2019 on 3900 acres that showed deer related crop damage at \$521,000, Deer related hidden cost at \$750,000, and other wildlife damage at \$98,000. This totaled a minimum of \$1,369,000 in damages in one year. In relation to this project, you would need to double the total damages number since it is over a 6000-acres project. This means that we are looking at a minimum of \$2,738,000 in damages. In the agriculture sector, there will be more jobs lost because of more acreage taken out of production as well.

The land and housing prices will decline if this project does go through. This is common sense when you have a house whose windows view a fence and beyond the fence are millions of PV solar panels 12 feet above ground.

The landowners will be expected to deal with water issues from damaged tile, or from water run offs due to the way the ground is excavated. This will cause farmer yields to suffer because the county is just looking at big corporate money and not caring about their constituents.

Another major issue with this project is battery storage. For example, Tesla has recently had an issue with battery storage fires. Battery storage fires can accelerate through chain reactions, known as thermal runaway. PFAS is commonly found in foam used to extinguish electrical fires. These "forever chemicals" have been linked to cancer and other health issues. Certain PFAS do not break down easily, causing them to remain indefinitely in the soil and water. "With large volumes, some battery fires are inevitable, but Tesla has put a lot of effort into making sure they don't result in too much damage". That will spread toxic chemicals in the ground and contaminated soil, surface water, aquifers, and body of waters like Lake Choctaw. California's state legislature banned the manufacture, sale, and use of firefighting foams that contain PFAS, beginning on January 1, 2022. Colorado, New Hampshire, New York, Maine, and Washington have already enacted similar bans.

I am asking for a denial of this project for the reasons stated above. Also, I would appreciate it if you could please keep your "document received" stamp in the margins and not cover any of the information in this letter. It can make these documents difficult to read for those in the community who have interest in these types of letters.

Sincerely,

Printed Name:

Priscilla Yoder
Priscilla Yoder

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