

From: Puco Contact OPSB
To: Puco Docketing
Subject: public comment 21-0902-GE-BRO
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IN THE MATTER OF THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD'S REVIEW OF OHIO ADM.CODE
 CHAPTERS 4906-1, 4906-2, 4906-3, 4906-4, 4906-5, 4906-6, AND 4906-7

Reference: Case Number 21-0902-GE-BRO

JANUARY 27, 2023

To whom it may concern:

The proposal to reduce the setback requirements in large scale Solar installations seems like an effort to increase the use of lawyers to settle disputes between the solar company and neighboring property owners.

50 feet is not nearly far enough away to prevent damage caused by wind or water to property.

I can easily imagine harmful chemicals being used by Solar companies to control noxious weeds as required in **OAC 4906-4-09(3)(e)**. The use of non-organic chemicals to control weeds are being proven to cause all sorts of illnesses in humans and could ruin the viability and livelihood of a neighboring organic garden or farms. Wind carries sand from the Sahara Desert in Africa to the Caribbean Islands, so what makes you think it stops at 50 or 150 or 300 feet? This regulation should require the use of organic weed control.

OAC 4906-4-09(G)(4) regulations should remain as is at the minimum: 150 feet from non-participating parcel or property boundaries; 300 feet from non-participating residences; and 150 feet from the edge of road pavements.

I would also encourage you to add setbacks of at least 300 feet from public lands like parks and preserves. Setbacks of the following sizes should be required along streams and rivers also: A minimum of 300 feet on both sides of streams draining areas greater than 300 square miles; a minimum of 120 feet on both sides of streams draining an area greater than 20 square miles up to and including 300 square miles; and a minimum of 75 feet on both sides of all streams draining an area greater than ½ square mile up to and including 20 square miles; and a minimum of 25 feet on both sides of all streams draining an area less than ½ square mile and having a defined bed and bank. Where the 100-year floodplain is wider than a minimum riparian setback on either or both sides of a designated stream, the minimum riparian setback shall be extended to the outer edge of the 100-year floodplain. These are best practices promoted by the Chagrin Watershed, but those adopted in the Darby Acord would be even better.

This would begin to protect Ohio's most valuable resource, its water. As climate change continues to affect the world and cause droughts in many places, Ohio needs to protect its quality and quantity of water every way possible, since the use of this precious resource is required for all life. It needs open land so its aquifers can recharge, and it needs to make sure no erosion or pollution gets into its surface water. Protecting public lands and waters with these setbacks would help the land continue to provide free ecoservices to us all.

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I encourage you to allow for more open spaces by maintaining the current property line setback for solar on land where there is no residence at the time of application.

Sincerely,

Hope Taft

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