

**BEFORE  
THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD**

<b>In the Matter of the Application of</b>	:	
<b>Blossom Solar, LLC for a Certificate of</b>	:	<b>Case No. 22-0151-EL-BGN</b>
<b>Environmental Compatibility and Public</b>	:	
<b>Need</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. \_\_\_\_**

**February 27, 2023**

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)  
7 as 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  
11 Science (1988) and Sociology (1997). Additionally, I received a master's  
12 degree in City and Regional Planning from The Ohio State University in  
13 1992. I also have significant course work completed towards a master's  
14 degree in Public 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 560 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 for more than 60 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 October 31,  
9 2022, in this docket. I managed the Staff investigation and preparation of  
10 the Staff Report in this case.

11  
12 5. Q. What kind of case is this?

13 A. The Applicant proposes to construct, own, and operate a 144 MW solar-  
14 powered generating facility in Washington Township, Morrow County,  
15 Ohio.

16  
17 6. Q. Please summarize Staff's investigation that was conducted in this case.

18 A. Staff's investigation included reviewing the application, conducting site  
19 visits to the proposed facility location, acquiring additional information  
20 from the Applicant, obtaining input from state agencies that compose the  
21 Board along with other relevant state and federal agencies, and preparing a  
22 Staff Report of Investigation that presents Staff's analysis, conclusions, and

1 recommendations. As a result of Staff's investigation, Staff recommends  
2 that the Board approve the application, subject to the 41 conditions that are  
3 presented in the Staff Report. In addition, as a signatory party, Staff  
4 supports the Joint Stipulation that was filed in this docket on February 3,  
5 2023.

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. Are you sponsoring any general conditions in the Staff Report?

15 A. Yes. I am sponsoring conditions not specifically addressed by other  
16 Staff witnesses.

17  
18 9. Q. Are you sponsoring any specific conditions in the Staff Report? If so,  
19 which one(s)?

20 A. Conditions 13, 17 and 41.  
21  
22

1    10.    Q.    Does this conclude your testimony?

2            A.    Yes, it does. However, I reserve the right to submit supplemental testimony  
3                    as new information subsequently becomes available or in response to  
4                    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 27<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2023.

/s/ Thomas G. Lindgren

**Thomas G. Lindgren**  
Assistant Attorney General

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**Case No(s). 22-0151-EL-BGN**

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