

October 18th, 2023

To whom it may concern at the Ohio Power Siting Board,

I am writing in regards to case number 22-0549-EL-BGN, otherwise known as Oak Run Solar.

I saw Savion had a booth at Farm Science Review, in London, Ohio last month. I had been waiting to see what their new form letters of support looked like. At least they are no longer claiming the signatories are residents of Madison County (I don't think that got a single resident of Madison County to sign one in this batch).

Once again, it would appear that they get gullible people to sign. Some of the reasons for support in the new public comments are clean energy and the environment. Does Savion disclose to these people that they are a subsidiary of Shell Oil?

From one of their latest form letters, "one significant advantage of the approach is the shade the panels cast on the crop and soil. Shading from panels helps the soil stay cool and check evaporation." This is true and may be beneficial in certain areas and on certain soils. According to the Madison County Soil Survey regarding farming, "Poor natural drainage is the major limitation in the more nearly level areas" (USDA, 1981). My understanding is that areas of the proposed project area would be graded to make them level. Also, from the Madison County Soil Survey, "Most soils in the county are highly productive if wet areas are drained" (USDA, 1981). Not sure why checking evaporation and lowering temperatures would be good for farming in Madison county. Hard to believe they will set the standard for "agrovoltatics" when they seem unaware of the local soil characteristics; unless of course their standards are incredibly low.

In another new form letter, the claim is made that "Madison Fields is growing hay under and between panels." While I did not enter the Madison Fields project site, I did take a drive around it and was able to view it from a bit of a distance. Looks to me like the only things growing under and between panels are weeds.

The following pictures are from July 2023 at the Madison Fields solar project (also owned by Savion).







Hay growing between fence and road. Not solar panels.



Perhaps when they said growing hay between panels they meant solar projects across the county?



Inside of the fenced area, it looks like bare soil to me.

I know that Savion would like the opportunity to set a standard protocol for “agrovoltatics” across the country, but I have my doubts... According to their own Facebook post they are harvesting wheat with a planter or maybe they were just trying to insult our intelligence. Or maybe they don’t know that you don’t harvest with a planter?

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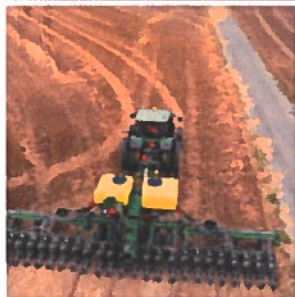
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Happy harvest to all the farmers who are out in the fields cutting wheat! We hope you're staying safe, hydrated, and as cool as possible. 🚜🌾🥤

Pictured: Winter wheat being harvested on Madison Fields Solar Project's site



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If Savion could put together a coherent argument as to why the proposed Oak Run Solar project would be beneficial to the county residents (beyond what amounts to pennies being given to public institutions across the county, by-the-way how is that solar project working out for Madison Plains schools? Last I heard their trying to get a levy passed), I would be supportive. If Savion actually had an agricultural plan (that is feasible beyond tiny robots owned by corporations controlling our food supply) I would be open to hearing it.

However, to date, they have been disingenuous, lack transparency, and insulting. There is zero evidence to believe that they will be good neighbors. There IS circumstantial evidence that they bought a county commissioner (Mark Forrest) and that should be investigated. I wonder why they had to meet in person and what they would not discuss via text.

Again, I would implore the Board to deny approval of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Arly Drake', with a stylized, flowing script.

Arly Drake, PhD

London, OH

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities
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Case No(s). 22-0549-EL-BGN

Summary: Public Comment of Arly Drake, PhD, electronically filed by Docketing
Staff on behalf of Docketing.