

From: contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2024 8:11 AM
To: Publiccomments@opsb.ohio.gov
Subject: FW: Case # 23-0931-EL-BGN: Stark Solar LLC Opposition

FILE

From: Dave and Shannon Thomas <shadyoakfarm.medina@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2024 4:40 PM
To: Puco ContactOPSB <contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov>
Subject: Case # 23-0931-EL-BGN: Stark Solar LLC Opposition

Dave Thomas
4939 Kennard Rd
Seville, OH 44273

July 18, 2024

Ohio Power Siting Board
180 East Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43215

Subject: Opposition to Proposed Industrial Solar Farm Project

Dear Members of the Ohio Power Siting Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition, along with significant local opposition, to the proposed industrial solar farm project in Washington Township (Stark County), Ohio. I am deeply concerned about the potential negative impacts this project could have on our local environment, safety, and quality of life.

Firstly, the proposed solar farm raises significant concerns regarding the safety and environmental impact of battery fires associated with large-scale energy storage systems. Recent incidents elsewhere have highlighted the risks of fires and toxic emissions from damaged lithium-ion batteries used in conjunction with solar installations. These incidents pose serious threats to public safety and the environment, and we must carefully consider these risks before allowing such a project to proceed in our community.

Additionally, the environmental footprint of solar panels themselves is a concern. While solar energy is touted as clean and sustainable, the reality includes the manufacturing processes which involve toxic chemicals and the disposal of damaged or end-of-life panels. Improper handling and disposal can lead to pollution of our soil, waterways, and air, further jeopardizing the health and well-being of our community.

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DOCKETING DIVISION
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

Furthermore, the fact that the company proposing this project is foreign-owned raises additional concerns about accountability and long-term commitment to our community's welfare. We need assurances that the economic benefits promised will outweigh the potential risks and impacts on our local environment and community cohesion.

As concerned citizens, we urge the Ohio Power Siting Board to carefully consider these factors and to prioritize the safety, health, and well-being of local residents over the profits of foreign corporations. Alternative sites and technologies that pose fewer risks to our community should be explored before granting approval for such a significant industrial project.

In driving through the proposed site in Washington Township, it is overwhelmingly obvious that there is strong opposition to the solar project. No where did I see signs in support of the project. Please protect the rural character of this precious land and use your oversight to look at other industrial applications of solar.

Thank you for considering my concerns regarding this matter. I respectfully request that you take into account the broader implications of this project on our community and act in the best interest of all residents.

Sincerely,

Dave Thomas

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