

# MORPC Solar Week

Local Government and Public Participation in  
the Ohio Power Siting Board Process

February 1, 2021

Matt Butler, Public Information Officer



Power Siting  
Board



Power Siting  
Board



Public Utilities  
Commission



Development  
Services Agency



Department of Health



- Before any company can build a “major utility facility,” the OPSB assures that it benefits Ohio’s citizens, promotes the state’s economic interests, and protects the environment and land use.
- **Public and local government participation are strongly encouraged, but decision-making authority rests with the OPSB.**
- If approved, the OPSB issues a certificate for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the facility.

## Electric Generation

Solar farms  
50 MW and greater

Wind farms  
5 MW and greater

Fossil fuel plants  
50 MW and greater

## Electric Transmission

Lines and associated  
facilities 100 kV and  
greater

## Natural Gas Transmission

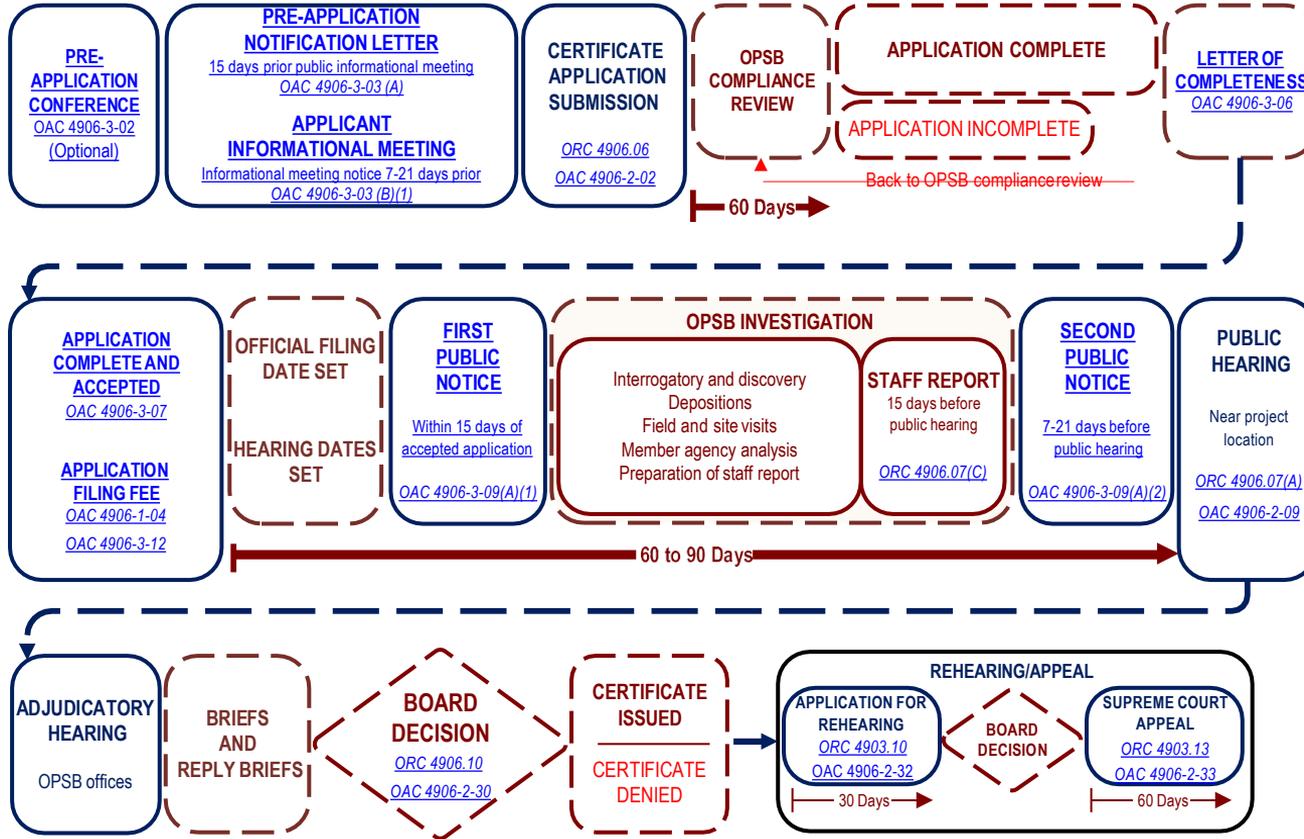
Pipelines greater  
than 500 feet in  
length and 9 inches  
in diameter

Maximum operating  
pressure greater  
than 125 psi



Notes: Project locations are provided by applicants. Case and construction status is determined by the case filings. The nameplate capacity shown is the maximum capacity that could be built based on the number of approved photovoltaic panels and the highest nameplate capacity of the approved panel models.  
 \*Pre-Application project locations, capacity, and acreage may be approximate. Acreage not yet available for Pending.  
 \*\*CPSC Certificate Approved MW and acreage values include Under Construction and Operational MW and acreage values.  
 Map 1 of 3  
 Map produced on 1/22/2021

Operational Solar Facilities			Potential Solar Facilities (Pending and Pre-application)		
Operational Megawatts (MW):		1,554.6	Potential Megawatts (MW):		6,043.5
<b>Approved Solar Facilities (50 MW or greater)</b>					
Case Number	Related Cases	Project Name	Approval Date	County	MW
17-0773-EL-BGN	NA	Hardin I*	12/31/20	Hardin	150
17-0774-EL-BGN	NA	Vinton	9/20/18	Vinton	125
17-1152-EL-BGN		Hillcrest*	2/15/18	Brown	200
	18-1267-EL-BGA		2/21/19		
18-1024-EL-BGN	NA	Willowbrook I	9/17/18	Brown, Highland	150
18-1334-EL-BGN	NA	Highland	5/16/19	Highland	300
18-1380-EL-BGN		Hardin II*	5/16/19	Hardin	170
	20-1327-EL-BGA		1/21/21		
18-1546-EL-BGN	NA	Nestlewood	4/18/20	Brown, Clermont	80
19-1880-EL-BGN	NA	Atlanta Farms	12/22/20	Pickaway	199.8
19-1881-EL-BGN	NA	Madison Fields	1/21/21	Madison	180
<i>under construction</i>				<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>1,554.6</b>
<b>Pending and Pre-application Solar Facilities (50 MW or greater)</b>					
Case Number	Project Name	Filing Date	County	MW	
18-1578-EL-BGN	Alamo	12/10/18	Preble	89.9	
18-1579-EL-BGN	Angelina	12/3/18	Preble	80	
19-1823-EL-BGN	Madison (Big Plain)	4/27/20	Madison	198	
20-1084-EL-BGN	Powell Creek	10/7/20	Putnam	150	
20-0831-EL-BGN	Fox Squirrel	10/14/20	Madison	577	
20-0972-EL-BGN	Yellowbud	7/21/20	Pickaway, Ross	274	
20-0979-EL-BGN	Arche	7/30/20	Fulton	107	
20-1288-EL-BGN	New Market	9/3/20	Highland	100	
20-1382-EL-BGN	Clearview	12/18/20	Champaign	144	
20-1380-EL-BGN	Ross County	10/30/20	Ross	120	
20-1405-EL-BGN	Union County	12/24/20	Union	325	
20-1529-EL-BGN	Wheatsborough	pre-application	Erie	125	
20-1605-EL-BGN	Birch	pre-application	Allen, Auglaize	300	
20-1612-EL-BGN	Mark Center	12/18/2020	Defiance	110	
20-1677-EL-BGN	Cadence	pre-application	Union	275	
20-1678-EL-BGN	Hardin III	pre-application	Hardin	300	
20-1679-EL-BGN	Pleasant Prairie	pre-application	Franklin	250	
20-1680-EL-BGN	Yellow Wood	pre-application	Clinton	300	
20-1757-EL-BGN	Union Ridge	pre-application	Licking	108	
20-1760-EL-BGN	Juliet	pre-application	Wood	101	
20-1782-EL-BGN	Sycamore Creek	pre-application	Crawford	117	
20-1814-EL-BGN	Dodson Creek	pre-application	Highland	117	
21-0004-EL-BGN	Tymochtee	pre-application	Wyandot	120	
21-0036-EL-BGN	Manion County	pre-application	Marion	100	
21-0041-EL-BGN	Palomino	pre-application	Highland	200	
				<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>4,665.9</b>



### LEGEND



Construction and operation are monitored by the OPSB

## Public informational meeting

Developer educates community about project and gathers input to consider in developing its application. OPSB representatives provide info about siting process and public participation.

## Public comments

Written comments are filed in the case where they inform the Board members and staff. Comments are accepted at any time after a case number is established.

**Website:** [OPSB.ohio.gov](http://OPSB.ohio.gov)

**Email:** [contactOPSB@puco.ohio.gov](mailto:contactOPSB@puco.ohio.gov)

**Mail:**

Ohio Power Siting Board

180 E. Broad Street

Columbus, Ohio 43215

## Local public hearing

Board obtains sworn statements from the public which are transcribed and become part of the official record that the Board considers before making its decision.

Held at least 15 days after staff publishes its report of investigation. Notification letters sent to property owners and local officials. Newspaper notice 7-21 before the hearing.

## Adjudicatory hearing

The developer, OPSB staff, and parties to the case present testimony and evidence regarding the facility and cross examine each other. **Intervention** grants individuals and local governments the right to participate as a party in the adjudicatory hearing, file for rehearing, or appeal to the Supreme Court of Ohio.

Held approximately 2 weeks after the local public hearing. Property owners and local officials receive letters advising them of right to intervene.

The OPSB must find and determine eight criteria:

1. For electric transmission and gas pipelines, the basis of need.
2. The nature of the probable environmental impact.
3. Whether the facility represents the minimum adverse environmental impact.
4. That the facility is consistent with regional plans for expansion of the electric power grid serving.
5. That the facility will comply with air and water pollution and solid waste disposal laws as well as air navigation rules and standards.
6. That the facility will serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity.
7. The facility's impact on the continued agricultural viability of land in an existing agricultural district.
8. That the facility incorporates maximum feasible water conservation practices.

If a project is approved, the OPSB monitors construction and operation to ensure compliance with the certificate and any conditions.

- The developer must establish a complaint resolution process to address concerns resulting from project construction and operation.
- The developer must obtain all required transportation permits and coordinate with the appropriate authority regarding temporary road closures and access restrictions, road use agreements, and traffic control.
- The developer must avoid and minimize damage to field tile drainage systems and soils, and repair or replace damaged field tiles.
- The developer must have a decommissioning plan in place to ensure the land is returned to agricultural use and provide for financial security to ensure that funds are available for decommissioning and land restoration.

## **OPSB Website**

[OPSB.ohio.gov](http://OPSB.ohio.gov)

- Case summaries
- Process information
- Calendar of events

## **Docketing information system**

[dis.puc.state.oh.us](http://dis.puc.state.oh.us)

- View case documents and public comments
- Subscribe for case notifications

## **Contact information**

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## **Mail**

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