

County Commissioners Association of Ohio

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

September 2021



Power Siting Board



Power Siting Board



Public Utilities Commission



Development Services Agency



Department of Health



Sen. Sandra Williams (D)
Sen. Jay Hottinger (R)



Rep. Jeffrey Crossman (D)
Rep. Dick Stein (R)

- 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.
- If approved, the OPSB issues a certificate for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the facility.

Electric Generation

Solar facilities
50 MW and greater

Wind facilities
5 MW and greater

Fossil fuel facilities
50 MW and greater

Electric Transmission

Lines and associated
facilities 100 kV and
greater

Natural Gas Transmission

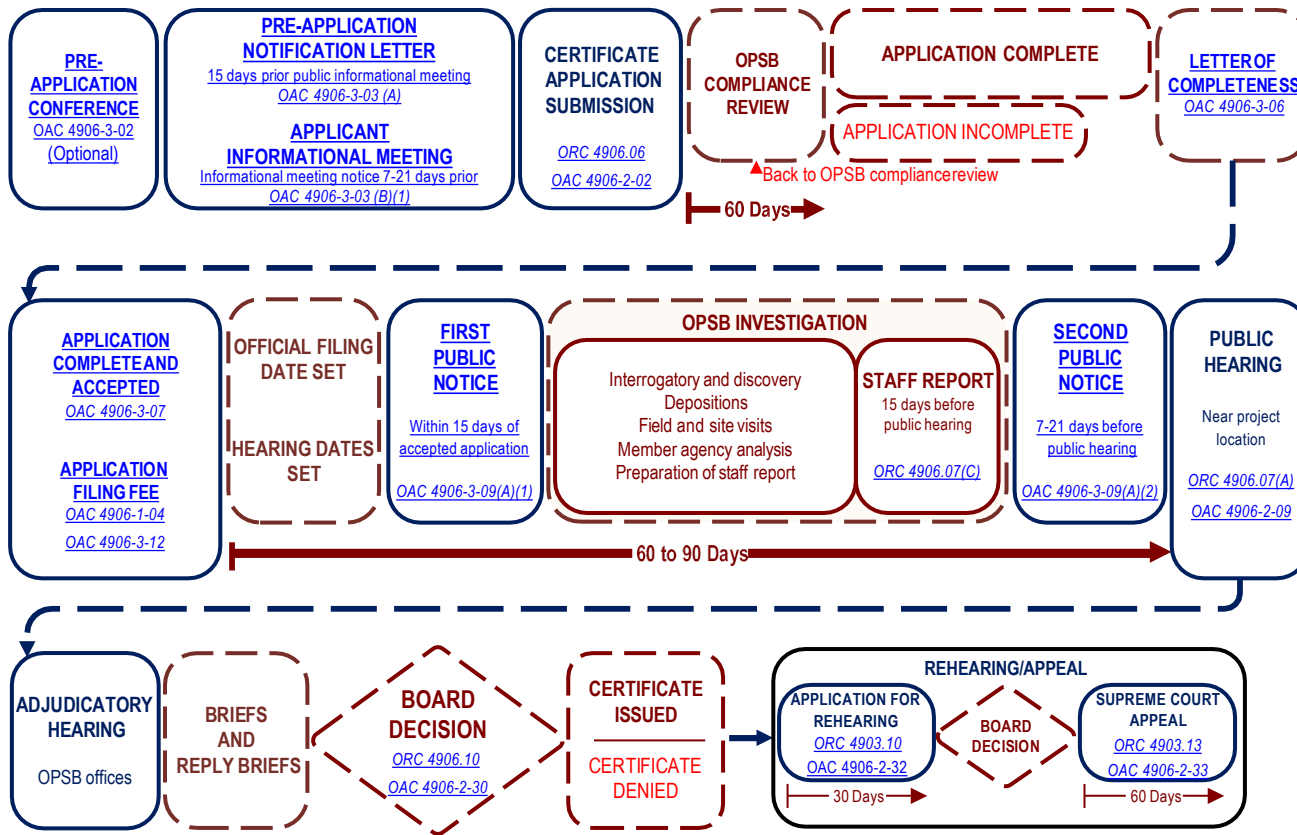
Pipelines greater
than 500 feet in
length and 9 inches
in diameter

Maximum operating
pressure greater
than 125 psi



Project locations are provided by applicants. Case and construction status is determined by the case filings. The nameplate capacity shown is the maximum capacity in megawatts (MW) that could be built based on the number of approved photovoltaic panels and the highest nameplate capacity of the approved panel models. The estimated project size is shown in acres. Pre-Application project locations, capacity, and acreage may be approximated. MW and acreage totals in the legend represent the entire State of Ohio. Map 1 of 2

Operational Solar		Approved Solar		Potential Solar (Pending and Pre-application)	
Approved MW:	150	Approved MW:	2,923.5	Potential MW:	4,664.7
		Operational Solar Facilities (50 MW or greater)			
Case Number	Related Cases	Project Name	Operational Date	County	MW
17-0773-EL-BGN	NA	Hardin I	2/5/21	Hardin	150
				TOTALS:	150
		Approved Solar Facilities (50 MW or greater)			
Case Number	Related Cases	Project Name	Approval Date	County	MW
17-0774-EL-BGN	NA	Vinton	9/20/18	Vinton	125
17-1152-EL-BGN	NA	Hillcrest*	2/15/18	Brown	200
	17-1267-EL-BGA		2/21/19		
18-1024-EL-BGN	NA	Willowbrook I	9/17/18	Brown, Highland	150
	21-0005-EL-BGA		7/5/21		
18-1334-EL-BGN	NA	Highland	5/16/19	Highland	300
18-1360-EL-BGN	NA	Hardin II*	5/16/19	Hardin	170
	20-1327-EL-BGA		1/21/21		
18-1546-EL-BGN	NA	Nestlewood	4/16/20	Brown, Clermont	80
19-1823-EL-BGN	NA	Madison	3/18/21	Madison	196
19-1880-EL-BGN	NA	Atlanta Farms	12/22/20	Pickaway	199.6
19-1881-EL-BGN	NA	Madison Fields	1/21/21	Madison	180
	21-0005-EL-BGA		pending		
20-0972-EL-BGN	NA	Yellowbud*	2/18/21	Pickaway, Ross	274
20-1288-EL-BGN	NA	New Market	3/18/21	Highland	65
20-0979-EL-BGN	NA	Arche	4/15/21	Fulton	107
18-1578-EL-BGN	NA	Alamo	6/24/21	Preble	69.9
18-1579-EL-BGN	NA	Angelina	6/24/21	Preble	80
20-1094-EL-BGN	NA	Powell Creek	10/7/20	Pulham	150
20-0931-EL-BGN	NA	Fox Squirrel	10/14/20	Madison	577
under construction				TOTALS:	2,923.5
		Pending and Pre-application Solar Facilities (50 MW or greater)			
Case Number	Project Name	Filing Date	County	MW	
20-1392-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	Wheatstoborough	2/11/21	Erie	125	
20-1609-EL-BGN	Sich	2/12/21	Allen, Auglaize	300	
20-1612-EL-BGN	Mark Center	12/18/20	Defiance	110	
20-1677-EL-BGN	Cadence	2/1/21	Union	275	
20-1678-EL-BGN	Hardin III	2/11/21	Hardin	300	
20-1679-EL-BGN	Pleasant Prairie	2/19/21	Franklin	250	
20-1680-EL-BGN	Yellow Wood	2/24/21	Clinton	300	
20-1757-EL-BGN	Union Ridge	3/26/20	Licking	107.7	
20-1760-EL-BGN	Juliet	3/12/21	Wood	101	
20-1762-EL-BGN	Sycamore Creek	2/12/21	Crawford	117	
20-1814-EL-BGN	Madison Creek	5/27/21	Highland	117	
21-0004-EL-BGN	Tymochtee	4/29/21	Wyandot	120	
21-0036-EL-BGN	Marion County	3/5/21	Marion	100	
21-0041-EL-BGN	Palomino	pre-application	Highland	200	
21-0117-EL-BGN	Kingwood	4/16/21	Greene	175	
21-0270-EL-BGN	Nottingham	7/26/21	Harrison	120	
21-0277-EL-BGN	Border Basin	6/15/21	Hancock	120	
21-0293-EL-BGN	Cepheus	7/30/2021	Defiance	68	
21-0669-EL-BGN	South Branch	7/22/2021	Hancock	205	
21-0164-EL-BGN	Harvey	8/6/2021	Licking	350	
21-0764-EL-BGN	Kensington	pre-application	Columbiana	135	
21-0768-EL-BGN	Dixon Run	pre-application	Jackson	140	
21-0823-EL-BGN	Wild Grains	pre-application	VanWert	150	
21-0868-EL-BGN	Scioto Farms	pre-application	Pickaway	110	
				TOTALS:	4,664.7



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

Email: 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.

- For all applications or material amendments that have not been deemed complete by the effective date of SB 52 (October 11, 2021), the OPSB will include two voting ad hoc members.
 1. A representative of the boards of township trustees located in the proposed project area
 2. A representative of the boards of county commissioners located in the proposed project area.
- Ad hoc members will be designated by the local government boards within 30 days of notice of application completion.

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.
- At least 60 days prior to construction, the developer must submit a decommissioning plan, prepared by a registered engineer, to the OPSB for review. The plan must include the parties responsible for decommissioning, a schedule of decommissioning activities, and an estimate of decommissioning costs, which must be recalculated every five years.
- The developer must post a performance bond to ensure funds are available for decommissioning and the bond must be adjusted every five years. The bond shall never decrease even if the estimated costs decrease.

Three public workshops to gather input regarding administrative rules.

1. In-person workshop
Oct. 4, 2021, at 10 a.m.
2. Web-based workshop
Oct. 4, 2021, at 1:30 p.m.
3. Web-based workshop
Oct. 8, 2021, at 9:30 a.m.

- Opportunity for OPSB to receive feedback from interested stakeholders and the public before draft rules are issued for comment.
- OPSB is considering implementing a rule that is specific to applications for electric generation facilities associated with solar panels.
- Workshops will be webcast live at www.youtube.com/user/PUCOhio.

OPSB Website

OPSB.ohio.gov

- Case summaries
- Process information
- Calendar of events

Docketing information system

dis.puc.state.oh.us

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

Contact information

Email: contactOPSB@puco.ohio.gov

Phone: (614) 644-7670

Mail:

The Ohio Power Siting Board

180 East Broad Street

Columbus, Ohio 43215