

**Minutes Thursday, July 13, 2023**

Mr. Lammers moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

that to provide for the unanticipated revenues for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2023, the following sum be and the same are hereby appropriated for the purpose for which expenditures are to be made during the fiscal year as follows:

Fund 018, General Ditch

Q 50, Advance Out.....\$ 8,200.00

(Advance back to County General)

BE IT RESOLVED, That per the request of The Board of County Commissioners for the purpose of the General Ditch Fund the following advance of funds is authorized:

<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Q 50, Advance Out (Repay County General for advance of Sept '22)	A 25A, Advance In	\$8,200.00

Mr. Schlumbohm seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Schroeder yes Mr. Lammers yes Mr. Schlumbohm yes  
Comm. Jrl. 119, Page 141

Mr. Schroeder moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of County Commissioners of Putnam, Ohio, that to provide for the unanticipated revenues for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2023, the following sums be and the same are hereby appropriated for the purpose for which expenditures are to be made during the fiscal year as follows:

Fund 022, Board of D/D

8 E 6, Mileage and Trainings .....\$ 20,000.00

8 E 7B, Bus Fuel and Repairs.....\$ 2,000.00

8 E 7J, Building-Brookhill.....\$ 10,000.00

Mr. Lammers seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Schroeder yes Mr. Lammers yes Mr. Schlumbohm yes  
Comm. Jrl. 119, Page 142

Mr. Schlumbohm moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

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**WHEREAS,** The Putnam County Engineer advertised for said bids for 2023 OPWC Paving Program and received said bids on the 6th day of July, 2023 at which time the bids were opened, publicly read, and tabled for further study,

**WHEREAS,** the Putnam County Engineer, Mike Lenhart sent a letter recommending that the contract for 2023 OPWC County Paving Program be awarded to Ward Construction Co., Leipsic, Ohio based on their bid read at the bid opening on July 6, 2023.

now therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That after review of bids received and preparation of bid tabulation by Putnam County Engineer, the Board of County Commissioners does hereby award the contract for the 2023 OPWC County Paving Program, to Ward Construction Co., Leipsic, Ohio, based on their bid read at the bid opening on July 6, 2023.

Mr. Lammers seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Schroeder yes    Mr. Lammers yes    Mr. Schlumbohm yes  
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**Then/Now Purchase orders**

**Board of D/D**.....Purchase orders 45422, 45423

**Sheriff/Jail**.....Purchase order 45974

Mr. Lammers    moved to approve the then and now purchase orders.

Mr. Schlumbohm    seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Schroeder yes    Mr. Lammers yes    Mr. Schlumbohm yes  
Exceptions: Mr. Schroeder    none    Mr. Lammers    none    Mr. Schlumbohm  
none  
Comm. Jrl. 119, Page 144

**Purchase orders and travel requests**

**County General**.....Blanket purchase order for Contract services July-Dec for \$ 3,000.00. Purchase order to Lima Security Inc for 2023 monitor & Inspection Fees for \$ 75.40.

**Children Services**.....Purchase order to Keeping Kids Safe for foster care maintenance for \$40,000.00.

**Sheriff/Jail**.....Travel request for Chris Verhoff to attend the National workshop for National Assoc of Professional Canine Handlers at Phelps Collins Air Force base in Alpena, MI on Sept 30-Oct 5 ,2023 with purchase order for registration and other totaling \$ 600.00.

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**Board of Elections.....Purchase order to Triad GSI for service agreement for ballot marketing tool for special election for \$ 3,704.00.**

Mr. Schlumbohm moved to approve the purchase orders and travel requests.

Mr. Lammers seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Schroeder yes Mr. Lammers yes Mr. Schlumbohm yes

Exceptions: Mr. Schroeder none Mr. Lammers none Mr. Schlumbohm none

Kurt Sahloff met with Commissioners Schroeder, Schlumbohm and Lammers to discuss Board of Elections updates. Voting is underway for special election. 118 people have already voted & 73 going out by mail. It is very easy to vote early in person. He is hoping Putnam County will be number one in voter turnout. The Board of Election is interested in using the new building at the Fairgrounds as a voting location. Commissioner Schlumbohm brought up an option for allowing voting anywhere within the county not just in your precinct, although this is not allowed in Ohio, it is done elsewhere. Kurt said the ballots for each precinct is not always the same there may be different issues. Kurt also mentioned that the new building must be ADA compliant and to confirm that the building and entryways are compliant. There is a progress meeting next week. The Board of Elections have received notices that the service agreements are coming again so their budget request will be short. An amendment will be needed. The workforce is holding steady and doing well. Advertising or public notice for early voting was discussed. The BOE will not pay for advertising for early voting.

Commissioners met with landowners and other interested parties regarding the Pike Run Solar Farm. Commissioners Schlumbohm stated the landowners called this meeting, so they will be speaking today. Iantha Barlage shared some information from Paulding Putnam Electric regarding the peak alerts and the materials that will be used for the solar panels. The farm land will be preserved rather than wasted. Miller City will benefit from public sewer system. The school system will receive more revenue and be able expand their programs. It will keep the large hog and dairy farms from expanding in to the area. If the Commissioners are considering a county wide prohibition on solar facility it will infringe upon the property owners' rights to do their will with their land, and will close the county for economic development. Solar farming is another way to be a good steward of the land. And this project will provide power for future industry in the area. They did give up land for power to GM in Defiance. Sonya Burner said the landowners are trying to give back to the Miller City School district, it is unknown how all of this will affect us and the school system. There is a need for a sewer system in Miller City. Why would they do anything harmful to the ground? The landowners should be allowed to do what they want with their land. Having the rights to do what you want is what America is based on. Sonya also shared information on cancer research in the area and she shared PV information materials used for the solar panels. There is no evidence that the solar panels will cause cancer, it will help to reduce lung cancer. Silicone is a natural element is will be used in the solar panels. Carl Beining shared information about greed and Avangrid wanting to come in to make money on your ground. The farmers have always been trying make money on the ground. Avangrid has been very generous for this project. Some of the market prices for harvested grain were shared. This project would only use .8% of the farm ground within the county. The environmental impact was also discussed. Thin film solar panels will not be used for this project those are used for smaller projects. We have been using the power of the sun and the earth for centuries. Fuel, oil

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and other materials in the farm machinery were discussed. Miller City school district is in the top of the state there a very few houses on the market within the school district and they do not last long when they are. If the Commissioner vote to restrict this what is the Commissioners plans to fix Miller City's sewer issues. Mrs. Barlage asked "during the duracho how many were without power", with these projects there are means to divert power to provide power when the main source goes down. Those with sump pumps and generators this power diversion helps in those situations. How will we have power backups? Other sources of energy have been used, people had propane and fuel oil for heat and cooking. Bryan Kuhlman shared his opinion of being in favor of the Pike Run Solar project for the advantage to the Miller City Sewer system and the miller City School. There have been personal attacks on the landowners. Bryan doesn't like swing sets in the front yard, bicycles, non-running cars or visible swimming pools, but he doesn't have any right tell other what to have on their property. Linda Melia agrees people do not have the right to tell you what you can and cannot do with your property. It is a big benefit for the village and school. It will even help the people that are against the project to save on their future taxes. More tax levies should never be needed for Miller City. You can get cancer form the sun not just the solar panels. Amber Riepenhoff said as Christians, stewardship is providing and protecting the land for future generations, she shared the uses and ages of fossil fuels, what are we leaving for our children. Continued agricultural use for the land was discussed, with pollinator patches. lantha Barlage shared that this project should be allowed to proceed and go before the Ohio Power Siting Board. Mr. Beining said "it is laughable for the reddest county in the state for the county to step in and obstruct this project". Martin Kuhlman came just to listen to the landowners. There is a procedure for the project to move forward, this project will not be sent to the Power Siting Board for two years. Jeff Reinkemeyer of Avangrid stopped in and asked if a solar farm would work in Putnam County. Martin approached his neighbors and suggested moving it to the west to benefit the Village of Miller City to give them the option to expand. Avangrid is much more sophisticated than we know they are trying to be a leader in helping communities. This kind of benefit from a project has never been done before. Avangrid has taken this on and is a sample in the state of this kind of project. The reason the Powell Creek project is expanding Pike Run is needed because there is not enough funds for the sewer system for Miller City. The townships are participating to help the Village of Miller City. Miller City is willing to forgo the taxes on the revenue from the farmland. Martin thinks people should get the facts before spreading false information. Miller City School's sewer system needed improvement so it was asked to have Miller City get a public system. Miller City's system is not big enough to accommodate any new houses. The amount of money that Avangrid has put toward the system is not adequate. The townships will get the income from annexed land how long will they get the income if it is annexed into Miller City? The townships will still get a portion of the income but anything that will be annexed will go to Miler City. Miller City is still within the township. Pike Run project will not be annexed into the Village. It could be done in tiers over a period of time. Pike Run project will not be annexed so there will not be a change. There is a net gain on the project. The township would keep the roads was negotiated. Commissioner Schroeder stated they are in favor of the benefit to Miller City, but they were not aware this would not pay for the whole system. Miller City will have to make a contribution also. The money paid in will be received back as a net gain after about five years. This discussion is to gather information on the Pike Run Project, the Powell Creek project is already moving forward. There is a decommission agreement in place for the Powell Creek project and the accusation that there is not is false. lantha also stated she has a contract from previous work that is still being honored by the power company. Gary Kuhlman said talked to someone from Paulding Putnam

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who said, Paulding Putnam can buy power from the grid if needed. So the power that is generated can be used in this area. The Commissioners thanked everyone for their input.

Alaina Siefker informed Commissioners Schroeder, Schlumbohm and Lammers that Fred Schnipke came in yesterday, July 12<sup>th</sup> and said that the weeds at the landfill on the north side that is being used by the Engineer need to be taken care of. He has had to address the issue before in the past. He wanted to let you know they need sprayed to keep them down or maybe plant a row of trees or something. He said you need to take care of this or he will take legal action. The commissioners said they will reach out to the Engineer to discuss it.

The business agenda was held with Commissioners Schroeder, Schlumbohm and Lammers and Cindy Landwehr, Clerk.

Commissioners held discussions regarding allowing or restricting industrial solar facilities above 50 megawatts. Several landowners attended the discussion meeting. The potential to put a restriction on both wind and solar facilities for Putnam County will be discussed. The Commissioners must take in to consideration the public response in making their decisions. The Commissioners are looking to put a restriction on the expansion of these projects at least for the next few years. The Continental project has given them things to think about such as setbacks for the perimeter fences. There has not been enough time to ask all the questions that need to be asked. Commissioner Schroeder had been approached as a landowner, by a different solar company, for these projects also and had to consider more than just the monetary benefit from a solar lease. He did not participate in the project. He talked to his neighbors to get their opinions to gather some information to help him make a decision. He is in favor of restricting the facilities. Commissioner Schlumbohm said he is also in favor of the landowners being able to do what they want with their land. However, the neighbors must be considered in making decisions. He is in favor of restricting the facilities at his time. This decision can be changed in the future and can be changed many times. Commissioner Schroeder also added that he talked to someone within the Pike Run project who would change their mind about participating based on the opposition he has seen. The effects on the other people must be considered. The Commissioners will follow the procedures for creating a restricted area within the County. A response has not been received on how with will affect the below 50 megawatt projects. There are many questions that need answered before anything further is done within the county. Allen and Hancock have already passed a resolution to create restricted areas within those counties. The Commissioners opened the floor for discussion on and questions; if the resolution goes through. The time period this would be in effect is not know at this time it could be beyond the two years the Avangrid needs to present to the Power Siting Board. The restriction can be rescinded at any time and any areas can be opened on a case-by-case basis. The rules on the 50 megawatt are under are changing and may go to 20 megawatt and under. Mark Snyder asked about the size based on the output. Blue Harvest is at 49.9 megawatts to stay under the guideline restrictions. The AEP project that is providing new lines to Pro-tec was brought up and the public input on that project. That power is not generated here. Will townships here be able to make their own decisions on allowing projects within their township? There can be areas set up within the townships to allow projects. The Commissioners do not want to get involved in a project and find out they made a bad decision. Currently a technical review committee will be reviewing any project that is submitted. They want to consider what it will do for the future generations. At the Liberty Township meeting, there are young residents that do not want to live in an area with solar farms. These farms are going to be too big, no one want to have to look at

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solar panels and chain link fences. The looks of the landscape will change and appear as a prison. The thought and desire is to retain and bring back the younger generations to live and work here. The Powell Creek has changed set back rules and perimeter foliage rules. The rules are changing from chain link fence to farm fence to make the appearance better for the facilities. Greg Luersman stated, the Commissioners currently have the power to accept or reject the PILOT payments. THE SB 52 gives that power. The Commissioners will accept any input on the decision. So far, the only people in favor of the facilities are the ones who are monetarily benefitting all others are opposed. COVID did not help the public notification on the Powell Creek Project. This can be revisited when Powell Creek is up and running to evaluate the projects. Adrian Schroeder asked, "If this was such a good deal, why wasn't it talked about before when the land was acquired"? There was a reason for the confidentiality but still the public had the right to know what is going on in their community. There is a project happening north of Miller City where leases are already being signed. Powell Creek should be up and running within two years. There are rules in place to monitor the projects as they come in and the Technical Review Committee can stop projects as well as the Commissioners. There is an option for the facility to pay the utility tax. The Alternative Energy Zone gives them the power to go case by case. Going case by case could open it up to some sort of discrimination. Mrs. Barlage had previous dealings with power projects with Paulding Putnam when they first came into the areas to expand. The process the survey was distributed was taken as being political. Adrian Schroeder did the survey on her own there was no political affiliation. There are ways to use the ground for farming with modified crops (shorter corn). This is also being researched so it is not ready either. Beehives could be set inside the areas, or clover planted also. They want to see what it will look like when Powell Creek is finished and operating. The Commissioners do not want to set a definite time frame on changing the decision to restrict. Martin Kuhlman says that will take away the opportunities to Putnam County. There were nine companies trying get into Putnam County last year, so if these projects are so popular and profitable for everyone there is no reason not to see what Powell Creek looks like when finished. The Commissioners thanked everyone for their comments and input.

Mr. Schlumbohm moved to adjourn for the day.

Mr. Lammers seconded the motion.

Vote Schroeder yes Lammers yes Schlumbohm yes

Mr. *Lammers* moved to approve the minutes as read.

Mr. *Schroeder* seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption,

The vote resulted as follows:

<i>Mr. Lammers</i>	_____	<i>yes</i>
<i>Mr. Schroeder</i>	_____	<i>yes</i>
_____	_____	_____

Dear Sirs,

I am writing this because my heart is torn for the caring for our neighbors and for our wonderful school Miller City and its community.

I truly believe these landowners are trying to do the right thing by giving back to the school district and community of Miller City.

The neighbors are upset because there are so many unknowns:

: unknowns about the solars in general, like anything new that comes into a community – Pro Tec , Poet, lams, what and how will this affect us.

:The unknowns of what the landowners are giving back every year to the school / district to offset the cost of this sewer project – so the community in general, taxes won't go up to fund this.

:The unknown that the school sewer is in fact passing EPA inspection BUT does need replaced and if this doesn't go through, the school is going to come after the tax payers of Miller City and ALL landowners will be hit the hardest .

: The unknown that if they don't pass the tax levy the EPA could shut down ONE of the BEST schools in the county!!!

: The unknown that the state already mandated Avangrid to put back 50 million to make sure the land can be return to farmable ground when this project is finished.

Not one landowner is trying to make the community worse, they are trying to make it better!

Why would they put anything harmful on the ground that can be used again??

You, as commissioners, are making decisions not just for the landowners of Liberty and Palmer township, but you are setting the stage for ALL FUTURE landowners in the county, but telling them what they can and cannot do with THEIR land- that my sirs is the start of socialism which is the 1<sup>st</sup> stage of communism. This is not what are great country is about, we are about freedom of speech, and democracy, what are fathers and Grandfather fought for what some of our children are fighting for today. Please don't disgrace them by taking that away!

Everyone is entitled to their opinion that's what is great about this country BUT you need ALL the facts and those facts won't get answered till there is a public meeting with Avangrid and the community so the unknowns can get answered. BUT all involved need to have an open minds and level heads to make a true honest decision

From what I am seeing, is a lot of miscommunications by Avangrid and the community. Avangrid owes the community answers.

I understand the worries but it is the landowners FREE RIGHT to do what they want with their land it's theirs, no one else. They are trying to help the Miller City and the school, remember that in this matter.

Progress is impossible without change ! Those who cannot change their mind cannot change anything!

Sincerely,  
Sonya Bura 7-13-2023

You have likely seen a type of solar technology called photovoltaic (PV) technology. It is used in the solar panels that you see on the roofs of homes or businesses, or as part of larger solar farms. As the sun emits solar radiation, PV technology uses cells to absorb that radiation and turn it into electricity. That electricity can then be stored in batteries or fed back to the power grid.

Another type of solar technology called concentrating solar-thermal power (CSP) uses mirrors to reflect solar radiation and convert it to electricity. CSP is mainly used in large power plants.

## Can solar panels or living near a solar farm cause cancer?

“There is no evidence that solar panels are causing cancer,” says Noah Kittner, PhD, assistant professor in the department of environmental sciences and engineering at the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina. In fact, adds Dr. Kittner, solar panels and solar farms may actually be a beneficial strategy to reduce the risk of lung cancer overall. “In many cases, they’re offsetting other electricity-generating sources that can contribute to air pollution, which can cause [lung] cancer.”

**Lung cancer** (<http://www.cancer.net/node/31273>) is the leading cause of death from cancer, accounting for 25% of cancer deaths, according to the **American Cancer Society** (<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/lung-cancer/about/key-statistics.html>). Globally, 14% of all lung cancers are attributable to air pollution, according to data reported by Christine Berg, MD, of the National Cancer Institute at the **International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer 2021 World Conference on Lung Cancer** (<https://ascopost.com/news/september-2021/iaslc-2021-study-examines-global-risk-of-lung-cancer-due-to-air-pollution/>). And, in 2019, electricity production accounted for 25% of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States, according to the **United States Environmental Protection Agency** (<https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/sources-greenhouse-gas-emissions>).



*“As the nation begins to think green and look for sustainable energy sources, there is growing interest in solar energy. While research continues to evaluate newer panel technologies, solar panels have not been shown to cause cancer.”*  
– Karen Winkfield, MD, PhD, board-certified radiation oncologist and Ingram Professor of Cancer Research at the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center and 2022 Cancer.Net Associate Editor for Radiation Oncology & Health Equity

## Can the materials used to make solar panels increase cancer risk?

Most solar panels are largely made of glass and an aluminum frame, along with other commonly used plastic and wires. Furthermore, the cells on solar panels that are used to capture sunlight are made of silicon, which is a naturally occurring element.

While solar panels may contain small amounts of hazardous materials, Dr. Kittner notes these materials are self-contained. “They’re used in the panel itself, so the risk is minimal,” says Dr. Kittner, adding that most people do not have direct contact with solar panels even if they are mounted on the roof of their house.

However, disposing of old solar panels or those damaged during storms in a safe and environmentally friendly way is a critical issue for communities, researchers, manufacturers, and policymakers alike. Researchers at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory outlined the most promising approaches to recycling solar panels in a 2020 study in **Nature Energy** (<https://rdcu.be/b5Av1>).



## Pitman County Commission

I am in favor the Pike Run solar project. When we heard that the project would help the Miller City School, Miller City town & the Liberty Township with more income and help to lessen tax & bring for the community what a good thing.

As a result by State law had to put up a Bond or letter of credit which they put 50 million dollars in to be used to remove panels & put the ground back to farming conditions.

This project will help Miller City with getting sewerage so now if someone wants to build there they can.

A property owner of its @ house or farm land should have the right what to do with it ~~that's~~ our right & your right as a free country.

Thank You  
Peggy Kuhlman

## Can the radiation from solar panels increase cancer risk?

Electric and magnetic fields together are called electromagnetic fields, or electromagnetic radiation. Imagine these electromagnetic fields on a spectrum, with low-frequency radiation on the low end, which includes things like power lines, and high-frequency radiation on the high end, which includes things like x-rays. Low-frequency radiation is less harmful than high-frequency radiation, which can damage DNA and cells.

Electricity from solar panels and transmission to the power grid emits extremely weak electromagnetic fields. Exposure to low-level electromagnetic fields has been studied extensively, and there is no evidence that it is harmful to human health, according to the **World Health Organization** (<https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/radiation-electromagnetic-fields>) (WHO). In fact, the WHO notes that most scientists and doctors agree that if any health effects exist from low-level electromagnetic fields, they are likely to be very small compared to other health risks that people face in daily life.

Other agencies, like the European Commission Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identifiable Health Risks, take a more cautious stance. They say that it's possible, but far from conclusive, that extremely low-frequency magnetic fields could be carcinogenic, or have the potential to cause cancer, according to a **2015 report**. ([https://health.ec.europa.eu/publications/potential-health-effects-exposure-electromagnetic-fields-emf\\_en](https://health.ec.europa.eu/publications/potential-health-effects-exposure-electromagnetic-fields-emf_en)) In the same report, the committee notes that studies of magnetic fields generated by roof-mounted solar panels are scarce and that no conclusions can be drawn.

## How can I learn more about solar power?

The **U.S. Department of Energy's website** (<https://www.energy.gov/eere/solar/how-does-solar-work>) extensively covers resources and information on solar technology, and the **National Renewable Energy Laboratory's website** (<https://www.nrel.gov/research/re-solar.html>) also provides an introduction to solar energy. If you want to learn more about electromagnetic fields and cancer, visit the **National Cancer Institute's website** (<https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/causes-prevention/risk/radiation/electromagnetic-fields-fact-sheet>).

**Like what you've read here at Cancer.Net?** Sign up for our monthly **Inside Cancer.Net e-newsletter** (<http://www.cancer.net/about-us/inside-cancernet>) and follow Cancer.Net on **Facebook** (<https://www.facebook.com/CancerDotNet/>) and **Twitter** (<https://twitter.com/CancerDotNet>) for news about the latest in cancer care and treatment.

### CATEGORY:

Cancer Risk and Prevention (<http://www.cancer.net/blog-category/cancer-risk-and-prevention>)

### TAGS:

myths (<http://www.cancer.net/tags/myths>) expert information (<http://www.cancer.net/tags/expert-information>) lung cancer (<http://www.cancer.net/tags/lung-cancer>) risk factors (<http://www.cancer.net/tags/risk-factors>)

### RELATED RESOURCES:

**Understanding Cancer Risk** (<http://www.cancer.net/navigating-cancer-care/prevention-and-healthy-living/understanding-cancer-risk>)

**Can Using a Microwave Cause Cancer?** (<http://www.cancer.net/blog/2021-03/can-using-microwave-cause-cancer>)

2642 Road 13  
Leipsic, OH 45856

July 5, 2023

Putnam County Commissioners  
Putnam County Courthouse  
Ottawa, OH 45875

Dear Sirs:

As a landowner involved in both the Powell Creek and Pike Run solar projects in Putnam County, I would like to request a meeting to discuss why these projects are important for the future.

As I write, I have received a message from Paulding-Putnam Electric that they have issued a peak alert. If I do not respond to that by adjusting my thermostat, then Buckeye Power may overextend its use of natural gas and coal thus causing our costs to increase in the future. With solar as a supplement, they can divert that power to help ease the financial burden.

I have confidence that Avangrid is using panels made with non-toxic silicon panels which will have less impact on the ground than using anhydrous ammonia. The grass mixture used between the panels should actually increase the fertility of the ground if returned to farming. Their setback from other property is much more generous than is required by law.

There is also the concern that valuable farmland will be wasted. Since I saw that I could make my ground more productive and to also help Miller City with its sewer project, I agreed to make better use of this ground. A sewer system will also help those who are willing to build in and around Miller City as well. The health department is already requiring more stringent requirements on individual septic systems. Miller City-New Cleveland School will be able to do much more with the 1.25% income tax on the increased income given to the landowners.

Building homes in the country takes away farm ground as well as solar panels. Or the land could be used for hogs, cattle or dairies which are often distasteful to those nearby houses. However, the ground below solar panels can be effective for agrivoltaic farming of leafy vegetables which does well in less than 100% sunlight, sheep grazing, or other multi-purpose uses.

If the Commissioners are evaluating a County wide restriction zone, there are negative consequences that must be understood. Primarily, my right as a property owner allows me to do as I wish with my land. As I noted above this may include a hog barn, grazing cattle, row crops, housing, or solar. If the Commissioners make that decision for me and institute a restriction zone, that will infringe upon my right as a property owner and would appear as government overreach. Furthermore, establishment of a County wide restriction zone will appear as though Putnam County is closed for economic development. It would make much more sense to retain the right to evaluate each project individually.

Finally, I have known farming my entire life, and I am confident that solar farming is just another way to be a good steward of the land.

Sincerely,

Iantha Barlage

## WHY THE PIKE RUN SOLAR PROJECT IS GOOD FOR THE COMMUNITY

The editorials in the last two issues of the Ohio Cooperative Living magazine (Paulding-Putnam Electric Cooperative) offer good arguments to justify adding more solar to the grid.

President Pat O'Loughlin, President and CEO of *Ohio's Electric Cooperatives* states the following in his message SEPARATING FACT FROM FICTION: "There are threats to our electric system's reliability from overly ambitious environmental regulations ....banning all fossil fuels by 2030. ...the EPA administrator, Michael Reagan has even claimed this can be done at very little cost and without affecting electric reliability. The reality is that our electric power systems has been built up over decades.—and it continues to evolve with new technologies that are cleaner and more efficient....Any plan to move completely away from fossil fuels today is unrealistic based on the limits of technology, time and money....People of all political persuasions depend on a reliable supply of electricity for their health, safety, and security....We will need your help and support to keep the lights on."

His editorial in July was entitled ENERGY INDEPENDENCE and I quote... it requires investment in things like infrastructure, mining, drilling, and fracking — but it's not only monetary; all of those things also come with environmental impacts that no one wants in their own backyard but must be considered in any calculation of their overall cost.

Our electric system is immensely complicated as well. It consists of thousands of power plants owned by countless companies and organizations — public utilities, municipal utilities, independent power producers, private equity funds, federal agencies, and even not-for-profit electric cooperatives. And each of those plants requires its own specific fuel, ranging from coal, nuclear fuel, or natural gas to sunshine, wind, or water, to generate power, feed it into the transmission grid, and ultimately deliver it to local distribution systems like your electric cooperative, which then deliver that electricity to your home or business.

There is some oversight by system operators, which set operating parameters and monitor system conditions, but there is little a system operator can do once supply shortages occur. So having excess reserves helps take stress out of the system. Unfortunately, we've seen the reserves in our electric supply system dwindle in recent years, threatening the reliability and resiliency of our system, especially under extreme conditions.

Independence is never free, and that's true of energy independence as well. It requires ongoing investments and long-term commitments to dependable infrastructure. "

The very first article in the July Issue, SUMMER FORECAST: SUNNY AND HOT WITH A CHANCE OF BLACKOUTS written by Amy Howat refers to the June 2022 severe storms and high temps that caused outages and also six months later Winter Storm Elliot (two days before Christmas) that caused more power interruptions.

Last summer, I recall news programs talking about rolling blackouts, and I know people in California and Texas were not happy with those, but according to the article those are often needed or there is the risk of total blackouts.

If we want more businesses to come to our area, we must have a reliable supply of electricity. Add more households to the grid and we will need even more power. Putnam County has worked hard to get Pro-Tec, Iams, and Poet and more to locate here but only because they were assured they could get the needed power to operate.

In the SUMMER FORECAST article, Asim Haque, vice president for state policy and member services for PJM Interconnection which is responsible for the part of the electric grid that includes Ohio and has to approve the application of the Pike Run Project before it goes to the Ohio Siting Board states this about the growing possibility of shortfalls in generation as we move forward.

“We’re going to see demand increase on the system due to data centers and continued electrification, both in the auto industry and in homes,” .... “Supply is dwindling, primarily because of state and federal policies that are prematurely pushing resources out of the generation mix.

“We are not seeing replacement generation come on at a rate to match the supply that is being forced out,” .... “Thermal resources — coal, natural gas, and nuclear power — provide essential reliability services. If we’re pushing them off the system, we’ll have grid reliability issues. We need those thermal sources until replacement technology can be deployed at scale, whether that’s long-duration batteries for wind and solar, or small modular nuclear reactors.”

It seems to me that the landowners in the Pike Run Project are doing the right thing to be part of the energy solution and create an energy source that can be relied on and help to keep our power grid up and running.

Iantha Barlage



# ELECTRIC RELIABILITY THREATENED WITH CURRENT U.S. ENERGY POLICY

## Are rolling blackouts coming to Ohio?

Join America's Electric Cooperatives  
PAC to voice your concerns.

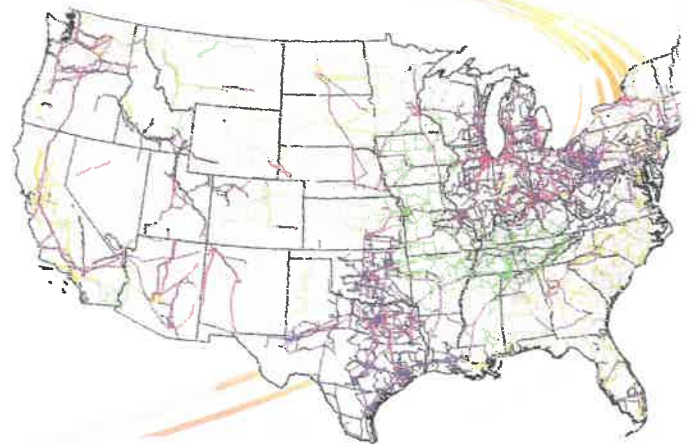
Over the past few months, cooperative leaders engaged our elected leaders at the Statehouse level and in Washington, D.C., to discuss our concerns over power reliability and the impact it will have on our communities.

You rely on the power we provide, 24/7, 365 days a year. For the first time since neighbors came together to form PPEC in 1935, the reliability of power is at risk.

Buckeye Power, our generation and transmission provider, generates enough power for all 400,000 members of Ohio's electric cooperatives, but we depend on the larger grid to balance supply and demand for electricity. Your cooperative works hard every day to ensure the local delivery system is reliable through planned maintenance programs and responsive service to local power outages.

### It's important you understand why power reliability is at risk.

- **Demand for electricity is higher than ever**, especially during extreme cold and hot weather, and with the growing electrification of our transportation network.
- **The supply of reliable electricity is down due to the rapid retirement of coal and nuclear plants.** A *Wall Street Journal* column in May called the latest Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ruling "a death sentence for fossil-fuel power plants." In 2009, Ohio had 21 coal plants, and by the end of 2023, only four will remain in operation. Intermittent sources such as wind and solar power have come online but haven't filled the gap, and they aren't reliable 24/7, 365.
- **Overreaching and unreasonable regulations result in unnecessarily high costs and provide only minimal environmental benefits.** This is clear from the EPA's ruling in May, which requires technologies that aren't yet cost-effective or feasible (and may never be).
- **Poorly designed electricity market rules** under-compensate reliable baseload power plants that provide steady, controllable output, while over-compensating less reliable, intermittent sources.
- **Unreasonable goals and time frames** have been set to achieve greater reductions in carbon emissions from electricity providers, even though the U.S. electric sector has cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 36% since 2005 while producing nearly 5% more electricity.



- **Supply chain challenges have resulted in unreasonable lead times** on obtaining new transformers and line trucks we use for local service.

North American Electric Reliability Corporation, or NERC, and PJM Interconnection are organizations charged with ensuring a reliable electric grid. PJM Interconnection manages Ohio's electric grid. Each organization has published reports of concerning trends causing increased reliability risks. They point out that rolling blackouts, like those experienced in Texas, California, and nine other states — and threatened in Ohio — in December 2022 are inevitable without an immediate change in energy policy.

### What can you do?

For 88 years, the mission of your cooperative has been to deliver reliable, safe, environmentally responsible electricity at stable and affordable rates to the member-owners in the local communities we serve. Our commitment has never wavered but is being challenged.

**There are two ways to help us carry the message to our state and local elected leaders that you support common-sense energy policy:**

1. You can write to your elected leaders using the mail list on the next page and our letter template available on our website ([www.PPEC.coop/PAC-signup](http://www.PPEC.coop/PAC-signup)).
2. Join America's Electric Cooperatives PAC (formerly ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action) to voice your support to lawmakers. Complete the form on the next page and mail it back with your bill.

Please Print

ATTENDANCE SHEET  
PUTNAM COUNTY

Public meeting Solar Farms  
July 13, 2023 9:00AM

Name

Bob Riepenhoff

Bob Riepenhoff

Peggy Kuhlman

Gary Kuhlman

Gantha Barlage

Joan Berner

Richard Berner

BRIAN RIEPENHOFF

KYBER RIEPENHOFF

Stephen Palte

Mandy Kuhlman

Bryan Kuhlman

JIM ERFORD

Brandon Barlage

Bob Stoffan

Nolan Cox

Kenny Palte

Kerl G Beining

Ken Niose

Open

Name

Adrian Schroeder

Micde Schroeder

Linda Melia

Martina Schroeder

Donald H Schroeder

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ATTENDANCE SHEET  
PUTNAM COUNTY

Public meeting Solar Farms  
July 13, 2023 9:00AM

Name

Name

GARY WESTRICK

Greg Luesman

Robert L. Smith



Please Print

ATTENDANCE SHEET  
PUTNAM COUNTY

Public meeting Solar Farms  
July 13, 2023 9:00AM

Name

Name

Robert Bennoth

Greg Lversman

Martin J. Kuhlman

Tanthe Barlage

Ken Nies

Adrian Schroeder

Rose Gerschütz

Marge Elberck

Marlene Schroeder

Karl G. Beining

Mark Snyder

~~John Verhoff~~

John Verhoff

Donald H. Schroeder

Rob Stoffan

Brandon Barlage

Patrick Blasius