



**Power Siting  
Board**

## **Siting Renewables in Ohio**

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Public Utilities Commission of Ohio*



# OPSB Mission Statement

*To support sound energy policies that provide for the installation of energy capacity and transmission infrastructure for the benefit of the Ohio citizens, promoting the state's economic interests and protecting the environment and land use.*

# Board Members





# What does the Board do?

- Before any company can build a new power plant, wind farm, electric transmission line, natural gas transmission pipeline, or other major utility facility, OPSB assures that it benefits Ohio's citizens, promotes the state's economic interests, and protects the environment and land use.
- Issues certificates of environmental compatibility and public need for the construction, operation, and maintenance of major utility facilities as defined in ORC Section 4906.01





# Why is this important?

- Board certificate supersedes local jurisdiction
- Board staff is qualified to review large utility infrastructure projects
- NIMBY



# Types of Facilities

# Generation

> 50 MW  
(regardless of  
resource: wind,  
solar, biomass,  
fossil fuel, nuclear)



# Electric Transmission

>125 (kV)



# Gas Transmission

>500 feet and >9  
inches in diameter  
with a operating  
pressure of at least  
125 psi



# Economically Significant Wind

With an aggregate  
capacity of 5 or  
more MW





# Wind Generation in Ohio

- Federal Production Tax Credit (expires Dec. 2012, future uncertain)
- Ohio's Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS)
- Climate Change / Energy Independence
- Interest in Green Power / Clean Energy Sources

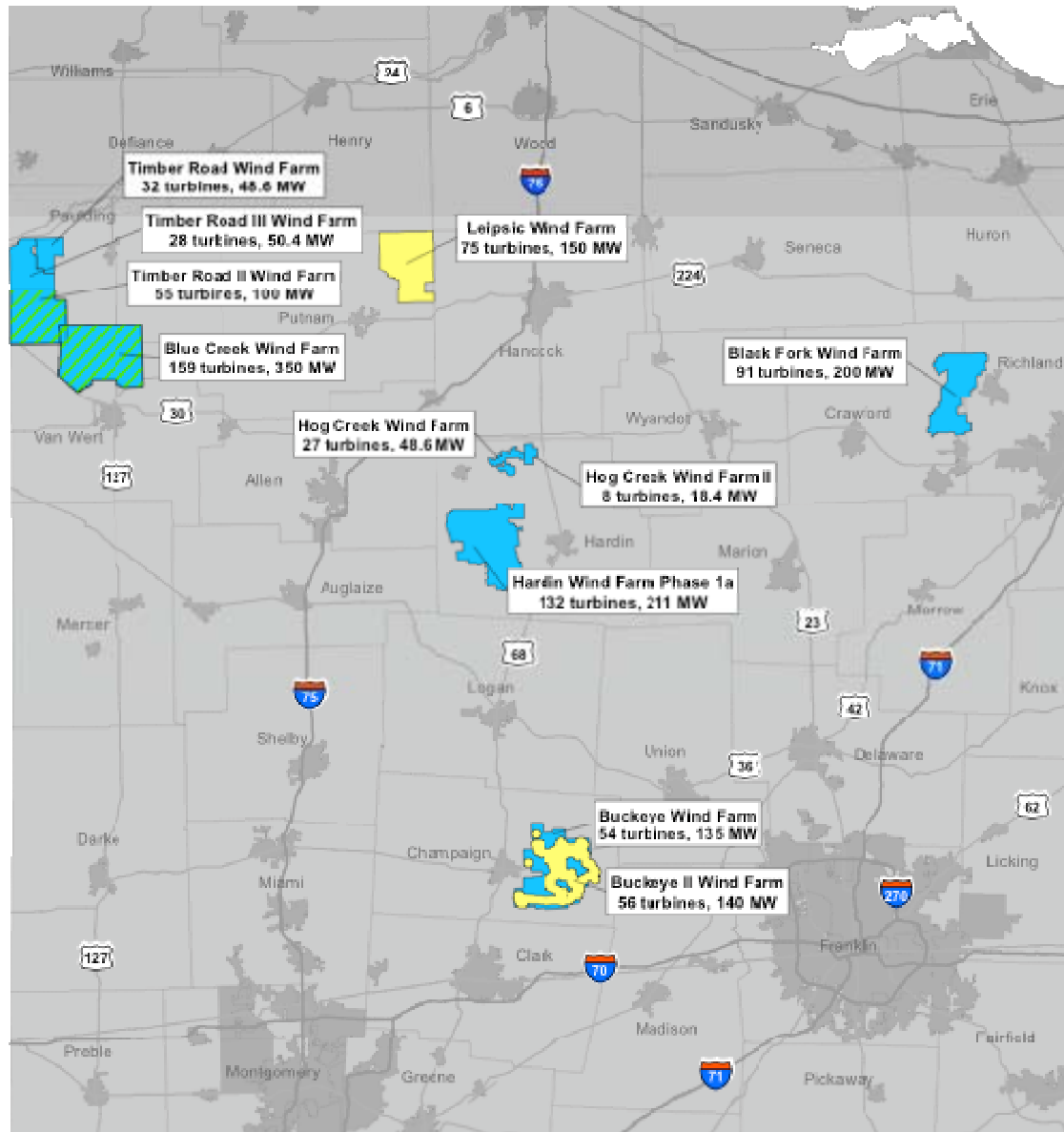


OHIO WIND TOTALS					
TOTLA MEGAWATTS OF ONLINE FACILITIES:					449
				<i>Certified</i>	<i>Pending</i>
Megawatt Totals:				802	524
Turbine Count Totals:				440	274
Total Potential Megawatts:				1,326	
Total Potential Turbines:				714	
Operational					
<i>Case No.</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Date Certified</i>	<i>Number of Turbines</i>	<i>Certified MW's</i>
09-1066-EL-BGN	Blue Creek Wind Farm	Paulding/Van Wert	23-Aug-10	159	350
11-1995-EL-BGA	Blue Creek	Paulding/Van Wert	25-Jul-11	8	See 09-1066
10-0369-EL-BGN	Timber Road II	Paulding	18-Nov-10	55	99
Totals:				222	449
Received Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need					
<i>Case No.</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Date Certified</i>	<i>Number of Turbines</i>	<i>Certified MW's</i>
08-0666-EL-BGN	Buckeye	Champaign	22-Mar-10	54	135
09-0277-EL-BGN	Hog Creek I	Hardin	22-Mar-10	27	48.6
09-0479-EL-BGN	Hardin	Hardin	22-Mar-10	200	300
09-0980-EL-BGN	Timber Road I	Paulding	23-Aug-10	32	48.6
10-0369-EL-BGN	Timber Road III	Paulding	28-Feb-11	28	51.4
10-0654-EL-BGN	Hog Creek II	Hardin	29-Aug-11	8	18.4
10-2865-EL-BGN	Black Fork	Crawford/Richland	23-Jan-12	91	200
11-0757-EL-BGA	Hog Creek I	Hardin	25-Jul-11	See 09-0277	See 09-0277
11-3446-EL-BGA	Hardin	Hardin	29-Aug-11	See 09-0479	See 09-0479
Totals:				440	802
Pending Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need					
<i>Case No.</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>County</i>			<i>Pending MW's</i>
11-2400-EL-BGN <sup>2</sup>	Ashtabula	Ashtabula	28		50
11-3676-EL-BGN	Leipsic	Putnam	75		150
11-4886-EL-BGN <sup>2</sup>	HoneyCreek	Crawford/Seneca	115		184
12-0160-EL-BGN	Buckeye II	Champaign	56		140
Totals:				274	524

(1 - Application not yet received. Turbines/Megawatts unknown.) (2 - Application not yet received)



# Wind Power OPSB Cases



## Wind Project Areas

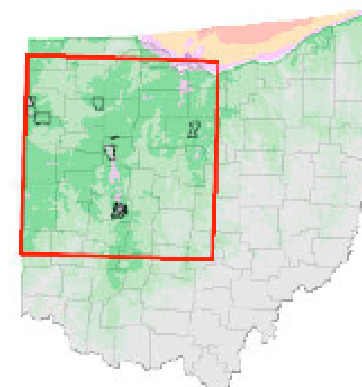
### Application Status

- Pending
- Approved

### Construction Status

- ▨ Under construction
- ▨ Operational

- Populated Places



Wind Speed at 10 meters



# The Siting Process

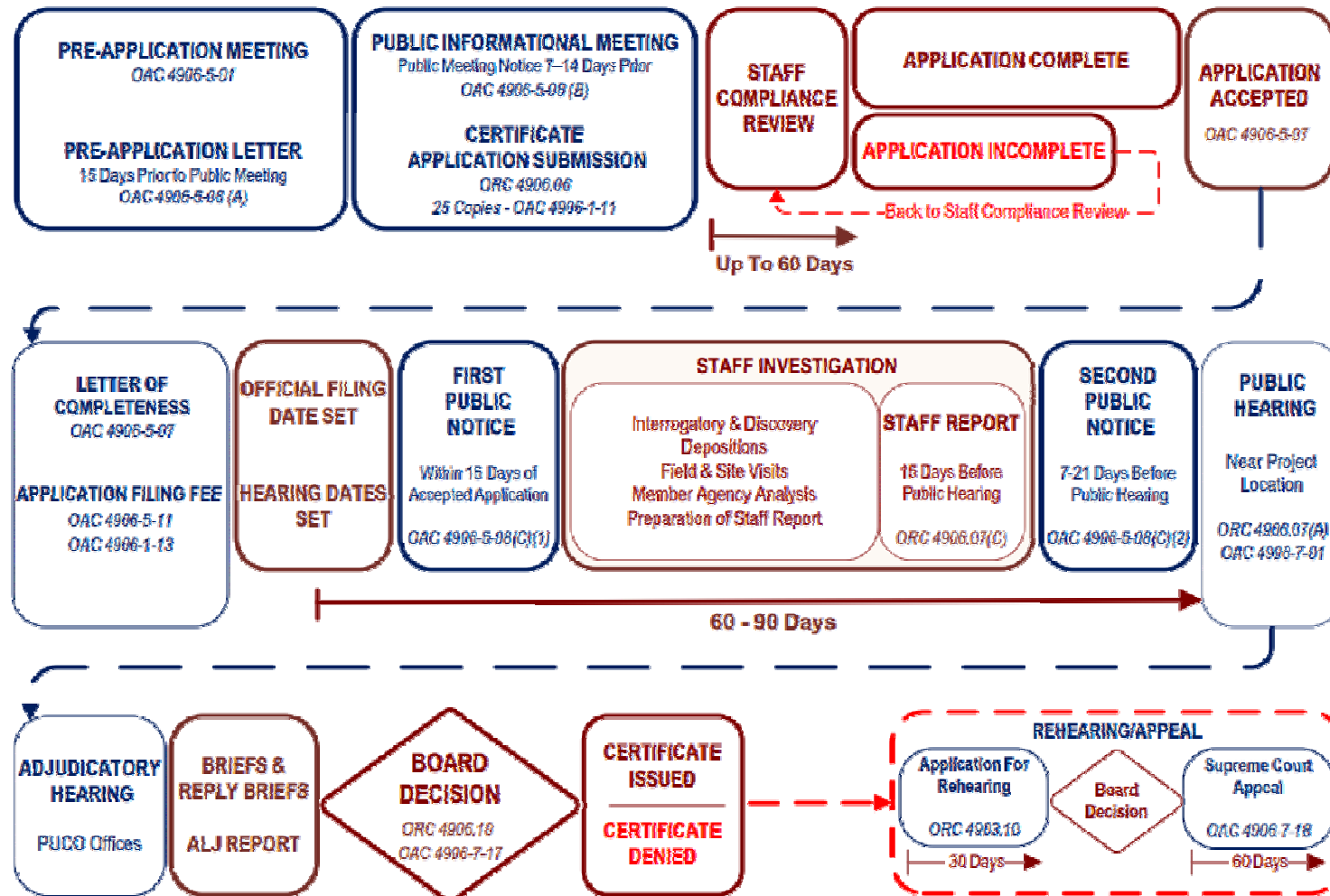


# Process...

- Pre-Application meetings and conferences
- Pre-Application Public Informational meetings
- Application submitted
- Completeness Review
- Letter of Completeness
- Proof of Service
- Board Entry establishing Filing Date & Hearing schedule
- Public Notice published by Applicant
- Staff Report
- Public Hearing
- Adjudicatory Hearing
- Board Decision
- Appeal Process

# OHIO POWER SITING PROCESS FLOWCHART

(Statute/Rule References and Select Blocks are Clickable Internet Links)



May 2011

Construction and Operation are Monitored by the Board  
Conditions of Certificate Apply for the Life of the Facility

Working Draft  
Subject to Administrative  
Review Every 5 Years



# Pre-Application Meeting

This conference between the applicant and the Board staff allows the applicant to ask for clarification of the Board's rules and regulations, identify any potential problems with the project and notify the Board of any potential waivers in the certification process.

# Pre-Application Letter

This letter, from the applicant to the Board, states the applicant's intentions and gives a 15-day minimum notification of the project's public informational meeting.



# Public Info Meeting

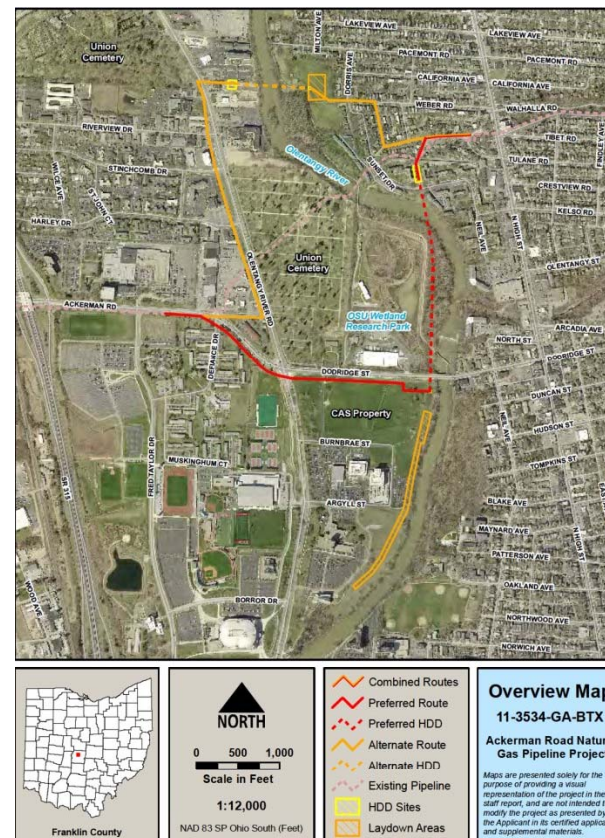
These meetings advise potentially affected persons of the upcoming project and allow individuals to express their input and concerns to the applicant.





# Application Submitted

An application for the project is filed with the Board, discussing the need for the facility and describing its impacts and effects on the surrounding area.







# Certificate Applications

- Must describe the facility and its impact on the surrounding area
- Viable alternate sites (preferred and alternate)



# Staff Compliance Review

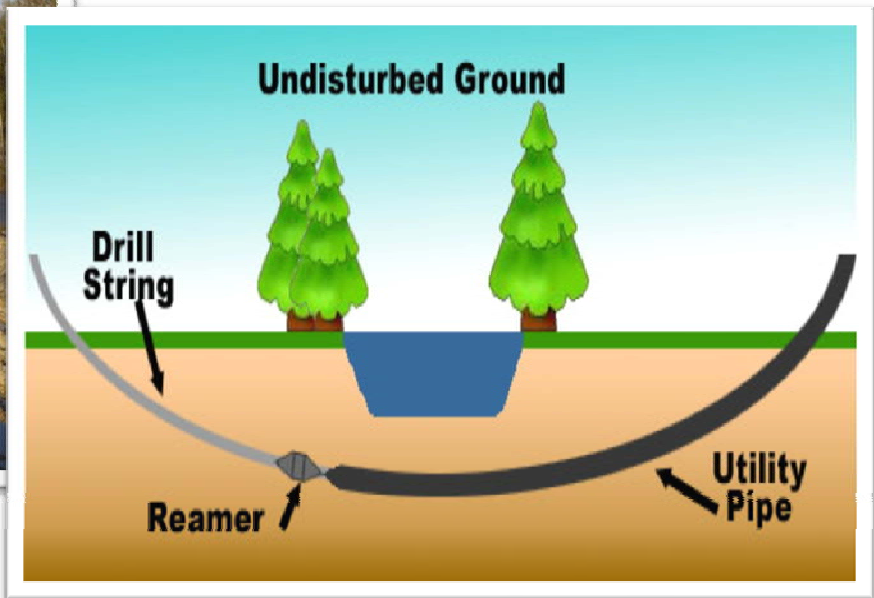
The Board's staff members review the application to determine if the application complies with the Board's filing requirements.



# Minimum Adverse Environmental Impact

- As outlined in OPSB rules, applicants must provide baseline information concerning ecological and social issues and a description of steps taken to avoid and minimize adverse environmental impacts.
- Recognizing that some impacts are unavoidable, the applicant must then describe efforts to mitigate the potential impacts to the extent feasible.

# Minimum Adverse Environmental Impact





# Site and Route Alternatives Analyses

## Site Selection Study

- The applicant conducts a site selection study
- The study is designed to evaluate all practicable sites for the proposed facility area
- Description of the process by which the applicant utilized the siting criteria
  - Should be data-driven
  - Designed to remove subjectivity as much as possible in the *application* of criteria for route evaluation



# Technical Data

Maps showing the following features:

- Topographic contours
- Existing vegetative cover
- Land use and classifications
- Individual structures and installations
- Surface bodies of water
- Water and gas wells
- Vegetative cover that may be removed during construction



# Socioeconomic & Land-use Impact Analysis

- Proposed transmission line alignments, including proposed turning points
- Transportation corridors
- Existing utility corridors
- Noise-sensitive areas
- Agricultural land

# Application Accepted

At this stage, the application may be deemed as 'complete' or 'incomplete'. Once completed, it is accepted by the Board.





# Application Filing Date

Once the application is accepted, the Board sets a public local hearing date, as well as a date for an adjudicatory hearing. The applicant is also required to pay a filing fee.

The screenshot displays the Ohio Public Utilities Commission (PUCO) website. At the top, the PUCO logo and the text "THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO" are visible. To the right, there are links for "Ohio.gov", "State Agencies", and "Online Services". A search bar labeled "Search PUCO Website" and a "Case Lookup" field with the value "00-0000" are present. Below the header is a navigation menu with links: ABOUT, ELECTRIC, NATURAL GAS, TELEPHONE, WATER, RAILROAD, MOTOR CARRIER, and CONTACT US. The main content area is titled "Docketing Information System" and features three columns: "Search" (with links for Full Text Search and Advanced Search), "Case Browsing" (with links for By Year and By Industry and Purpose), and "Daily Activity" (with a "Recent Daily Reports" section listing dates from 07/03/2012 to 06/27/2012). A "Report Date" section shows the date 6/26/2012 and a "Display" button. On the left side of the main content area, there is a sidebar with links: Agenda & Hearings, Forms, Rules, Utility Maps, Webcasts, and Power Siting Board.

# First Public Notice

The application is sent to local public officials and published in local newspapers. The application may be viewed online or at public libraries in the affected area.



# Staff Investigation

The Board's staff coordinates with other state agencies and investigates the project in order to develop a report based on the application, data from field and site visits and other relevant resources.



# Second Public Notice

The developer must send letters to those affected by the proposed project, informing local residents of the potential plans.





# Public Hearing

The Board holds a public hearing near the project area to take sworn testimony from individuals. The Board also holds an adjudicatory hearing at its Columbus office.





# Briefs and Interveners

Legal briefs are exchanged between the Board the Applicant and other formal parties known as interveners.

# Board Decision

- The Board formally rules on the proposed project, issuing or denying a certificate.
- The Board bases its decision on eight statutory criteria.





# Eight Criteria

1. Probable environmental impact
2. That facility represents the Minimum Adverse Environmental Impact
3. Need for the facility;
4. Facility is consistent with regional plans for expansion of the electric power grid;
5. Facility will comply with all air and water pollution and solid waste disposal laws and regulations;
6. Facility will serve the public interest, convenience and necessity
7. Facility's impact on the continued agricultural viability of land in an existing agricultural district
8. The facility incorporates maximum feasible water conservation practices considering available technology and the nature and economics of various alternatives.



# Rehearing & Appeal

The decision may be reheard by the Board then appealed to the Ohio Supreme Court.



# Construction and Operation

The Board oversees the construction of the project and monitors its operation for two years following the in-service date.





# Accelerated Processes

Recognizing that smaller projects often have less impacts, the state allows for an accelerated review. In the form of:

- Letters of Notification – 63 days
- Construction Notices – 42 days
- Automatically approved after staff report is filed (subject to conditions)



For more information about the OPSB, the siting process and current applications please visit:

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

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