

## Can I participate in the process?

### Public informational meeting

Before filing an application to build a new facility, the company is required to hold a **public informational meeting**. The purpose of this meeting is for company representatives to inform stakeholders about plans to file an application with the OPSB. The meeting also serves as an opportunity to gather public input and hear the public's concerns, which the company considers in developing its application.

### Public hearings

Once the company submits its application for the new facility, the OPSB staff scrutinizes the plan, makes a formal request for comments from other agencies and parties, and then makes a recommendation to the full Board. After the OPSB staff makes its recommendation, formal **public hearings** are held. These hearings enable citizens, interest groups and governmental entities to present testimony.

### Written comments

Once a case has been officially filed with the Board, Board members are, by law, precluded from discussing the substance of the case with any party until the Board issues its decision. Interested persons are encouraged to submit written comments and to attend the scheduled public hearing.

## Where can I learn more?

Contact the OPSB at **(866) 270-OPSB (6772)** or visit **[www.OPSB.ohio.gov](http://www.OPSB.ohio.gov)** to learn more about Board members, the siting process, or to check details of a specific application.

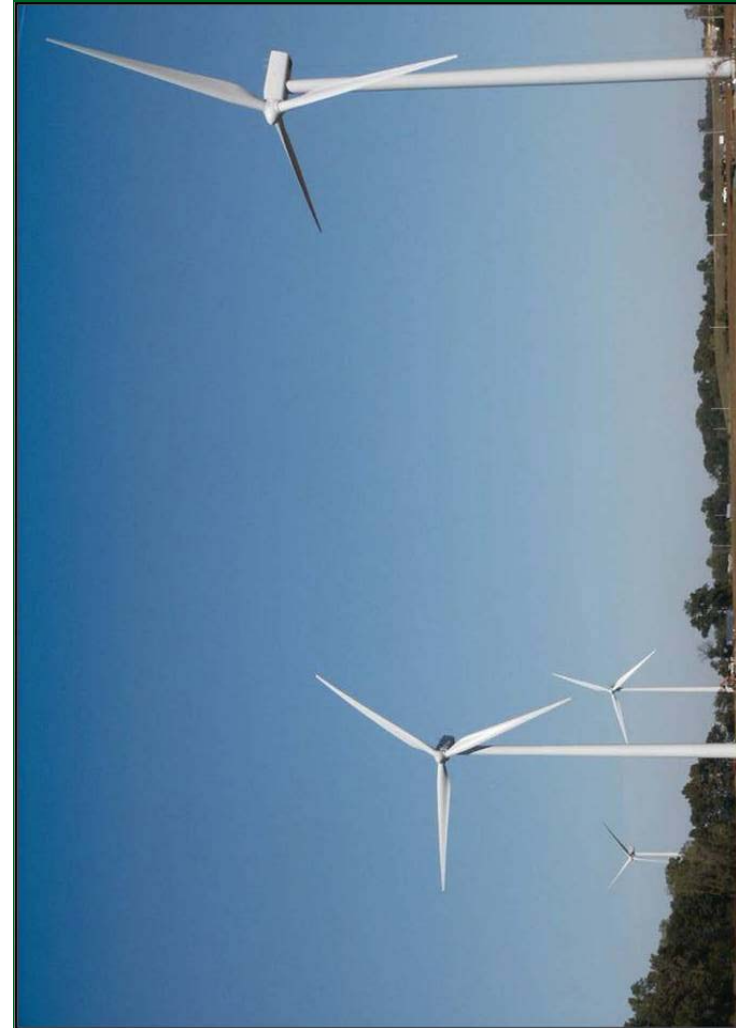
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## The Ohio Power Siting Board

The Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) is responsible for reviewing and approving plans for the construction of new energy facilities in Ohio. Before any company can build a new power plant, wind farm, electric transmission line, gas pipeline, or other major energy facility, the OPSB assures that it benefits Ohio's citizens, promotes the state's economic interests, and protects the environment and land use.



### Who serves on the OPSB?

The Board is comprised of 11 members:

- Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Chair
- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
- Ohio Department of Agriculture
- Ohio Department of Development
- Ohio Department of Health
- Ohio Department of Natural Resources
- A public engineer appointed by the governor
- Four non-voting legislative members

## The application

### What is in the application?

The application must describe the facility and its impact on the surrounding area. The application for a transmission facility must also contain information on need and alternative sites. While one of the sites is designated "preferred" by the company, both the preferred and alternative must be actual and viable sites that the Board could approve. The "preferred" designation does not indicate any favor or prior approval of the Board.

### How can I see a copy of the application?

After the application is determined to be complete, legal notices are published in newspapers in those areas impacted by the proposed facility. The legal notice must include a listing of area libraries where a copy of the application may be viewed. The application can also be viewed on line by going to the OPSB Web site.

## How does the OPSB make its decision?

By law, the OPSB must find and determine eight criteria including:

- The probable environmental impact of the proposed facility
- Whether the facility represents the minimum adverse environmental impact, considering available technology and the nature and economics of alternatives
- The need for any transmission facility
- That the facility is consistent with regional plans for expansion of the electric power grid of the electric systems serving Ohio and interconnected systems and that the facility will serve the interests of electric system economy and reliability
- That the facility will comply with all air and water pollution and solid waste disposal laws and regulations
- That the facility will serve the public interest, convenience and necessity
- The facility's impact on the continued agricultural viability of any land in an existing agricultural district
- That the facility incorporates maximum feasible water conservation practices considering available technology and the nature and economics of various alternatives

