

Subject: Copy of testimony: case#19-1641 EL-BJN

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The proposed power plant at Tharp and Herrick Drive proposed by OSU is a deceitful disaster waiting to happen. For an institution that is world renowned for their work on climate change, this plant is a contradiction. The 35% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions predicted by OSU is very misleading. Whereas it is documented that the burning of natural gas decreases carbon dioxide emissions compared to those released by coal, it fails to take into consideration the acquisition, transport and waste disposal which is produced by obtaining shale gas. According to Howarth and Dr. Anthony Ingraff from Cornell University, natural gas is 95% methane. Methane is an extremely potent greenhouse gas. The science message from Paris 4 years ago was: we need to move very aggressively away from fossil fuels including not only coal but also natural gas particularly from shale gas. Methane gas is the Achilles heel of natural gas.

OSU has formed the Ohio State Energy Partners which is a collaboration of private energy companies. This group has paid OSU 1.015 billion dollars up front in exchange for their ability to manage OSU's utilities for 50 years. This influx of large capital makes OSU indebted to the Ohio State Energy Partners. The Ohio State Energy Partners have accomplished some noble goals in making OSU more energy efficient. However, building the CHP plant which will be obsolete in 50 years is not a positive attribute. It will not add to OSU's sustainability in energy.

The structure of universities is changing dramatically, This pandemic has increased remote learning. Why is OSU planning to build 4,000 new resident halls when they may remain vacant? There have been several reports of leaking methane. The Ohio State Energy Partners is not giving OSU over a billion dollars to be nice. They plan and will make their money back in the 48 years remaining in this contract. The proposed construction of this plant is not commonly known. I urge you to have more public hearings when the students have returned and publicize this project so that those who will be negatively affected can be heard.