



**For Immediate Release**

## **Icebreaker Wind developers stunned by today's decision by the Ohio Power Siting Board**

**Cleveland – May 21, 2020** - The following is a statement by David P. Karpinski, President of the Lake Erie Energy Development Corporation (LEEDCo), which is planning and developing Icebreaker Wind, a six-turbine demonstration project that would be located about 8 miles off of Cleveland's Lake Erie shoreline. Icebreaker was expected to inject \$253 million into the local economy over its lifetime and create more than 500 jobs.

*"Today's order is not an approval. A condition added by the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) may well be fatal to the entire project. We are extremely disappointed the Board took this unfortunate step backward for clean energy in Ohio.*

*We are stunned by the OPSB Order today that, although they approved construction of Icebreaker Wind, added a significant condition that reneges on the agreement reached with OPSB Staff last May. Throughout the OPSB proceedings in this case, we made it abundantly clear that a requirement to shut down the turbines from dusk to dawn for the majority of the year renders the project economically not viable.*

*Given the prior agreement signed off on by the Attorneys General representing the OPSB and ODNR, we were extremely surprised by their directive and learned of it only in the press release the OPSB issued immediately following the meeting today.*

*We have been fully transparent with the OPSB Staff that this requirement makes the project economically unworkable and unrealistic, and they ultimately agreed and signed on to the Joint Stipulation in May 2019. Taken in full context of the entire Joint Stipulation, the OPSB Staff, with concurrence from ODNR, found that Icebreaker, subject to the conditions of the Joint Stipulation, represented the minimum adverse environmental impact.*

*LEEDCo has invested incredible amounts of time and money into studying and assessing potential impact to birds and bats. We have not taken it lightly. Consider just the following:*

- *The U.S. Department of Energy ruled – after an intensive two-year study – that Icebreaker will have no significant impact on the environment.*
- *Icebreaker has been endorsed by environmental groups, including the Sierra Club, the Environmental Defense Fund and the Ohio Environmental Council.*
- *Icebreaker has earned approvals from regulatory agencies including the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The project had been thoroughly reviewed for many years under the strictest of environmental regulations and reviews by 13 local, state and federal agencies.*

*In light of today's decision, LEEDCo will need to reconvene in the coming days and examine our options on how and whether we can move forward."*

LEEDCo is a non-profit public-private partnership whose members include the City of Cleveland, the Port of Cleveland, the Cleveland Foundation and Cuyahoga, Lake, Ashtabula and Lorain counties in Ohio and Erie County, PA.

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