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PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

Paula L. Pedigo
1615 Payne Loop Road
Smiths Grove, KY 42171

August 4, 2025

Kentucky State Board on Electric Generation
211 Sower Boulevard
PO Box 615
Frankfort, KY 40602

Case: Wood Duck 2024-00337

RE: Addendum to letters dated July 19, 2025 and July 25, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter as an addendum to my letter dated July 19, 2025 and subsequent letter dated July 25, 2025. Previous letters are factual, the addendums are adding additional documentation.

Since those letters were submitted, our County Judge Executive Jamie Byrd disclosed in the Barren County Progress on July 30, 2025 (copy attached) that she accepted an "unsolicited" donation of \$2,000 from Wood Duck for the "Helping the Hardworking" nonprofit. That brings the total to \$12,000 for her two nonprofits.

As a citizen, I do not challenge the mission of these groups or the character of the volunteers. I challenge the acceptance of the funds by the top official in the county who accepted and willingly promoted the "gifts" which implies consent, acceptance and a public endorsement of the project which could swing influence over commission votes and members of the public.

I also question the involvement of our state representative who is also in the picture and his wife who is intimately involved (as an officer) with the nonprofit and his home address is listed as the principle address. Accepting funds such as these are considered from a "prohibited source."

Further, Byrd stated in this article "The PSC quickly corrected the error" referring to the email dated March 18, 2025 from Linda Bridwell which stated that Byrd would be appointed to the Ad Hoc committee and she was to have no communication with the developer. I have submitted an open records request and received various documents from the PSC, none of which support her claim.

Additionally, the article states in a "publisher's note" that "The BCP has also confirmed that JE Bewley Byrd has had a well-known conservative from the community denied in regard to being placed on the Public Service Commission representing Barren county. This leads the BCP to believe she is not in any position of control over this project."

Two open records responses from the PSC have provided no communication to substantiate this statement by the “publisher” of the Barren County Process.

The Siting Board may recall that on April 16, 2025, Byrd sent a text message with an invoice to Pope stating “Our 8 volunteer fire departments are looking to purchase this. You had asked about donations....ok, let me know the amount to help.” (copies submitted previously with July 19, 2025 letter)

Pursuant to an Open Records Request to Barren County Fiscal Court, I have obtained a copy of the invoice that Judge Byrd provided to Pope requesting a donation of \$21,800 for what appears to be a request for an online training module. (copy attached) This was April 17, 2025.

Wood Duck representatives have not met with our fire officials and they have many questions. Questions like, where are the 28 commercial solar utility sites? How close are panels to other homes and structures? How will the fire departments have access to the fields? Does a truck fit between the rows of panels? Can their hoses reach every panel in every field? Where is the shut-off switches? Who do they call in an emergency? How do they extinguish electrical fires? What are the fire ratings of the panels? Can a row be extinguished or must it burn out? What chemicals are released? What are the shelter-in-place requirements? What is the anticipated heat when a row of solar panels catches on fire? How long does a panel burn?

I have heard from some fire fighters that they cannot extinguish a solar fire and they cannot extinguish lithium battery fires and this project will have 35 inverter stations. The presence of batteries has yet to be confirmed.

Putting 2,300 acres or 1,200 whatever the number is , under solar panels is going to put a LARGE majority of the South Barren Fire district under panels. Cave City, Glasgow and others may need to respond.

Our firefighters did not attend the public hearing as they were told to “stand down” because the “county judge has been good to them and they are going to get some training and some stuff.” That was told to me by a high-ranking fire official.

In a text message dated June 17, 2025 Wes Kinslow, Chief of the South Barren Fire Department, asked Byrd if she knew anything about the software we asked them to purchase? Byrd responds, they haven’t responded yet. (copy attached)

This indicates that Kinslow gave the invoice to Byrd to give to Wood Duck and Kinslow is expecting delivery. So, we have a citizen in the community making a request and the judge hand-delivers to the developer. Did this quell fire professionals in the community from raising concerns at the public hearing? Absolutely it did.

Now, we know, thanks to this invoice, **\$21,800 was requested** from Wood Duck from Byrd.

Community members have expressed concerns over the size of the water lines, the non-working and in operatable fire hydrants, the closeness of panels to property lines and structures, toxic threats to humans and animals and more should the panels catch on fire.

As to concerns with the article in the Barren County Progress:

When a project is "in progress" what exactly does that mean? We're thinking about it? We have permits? We have hired consultants to begin studying it?

Wood Duck was in the process of **designing** a project, that if Byrd had studied, or Kevin Myatt talked about it, the 50-20-10 could have been changed by the planning commission and the fiscal court. Byrd first met with them in February 2023 - so she had 10 months.

Emails from Myatt confirmed Geenex told him what to write. He says he was "tasked". Shouldn't he have told Byrd he was "tasked" and this could create a controversy? The Wood Duck project was not final or approved when she took office and Byrd failed to disclose it until it was approved.

Byrd states that she met with homeowner Troy Robertson. She and Robertson graduated high school together and she appointed him to the Ethics Commission in May 2023. This isn't just a participant she talked with to get the facts. He's a Buddy ole friend.

Byrd asked the developer what they did to engage the public. This is also documented in her text messages, but she failed to ask the public, "When did you know?" Byrd is aware the meetings were held **after** the project was approved by the planning commission and that the public had no input, yet she continues to quote a narrative that isn't true and has since December 2023 told the public it is a "done deal."

Additionally, she has probably 100 letters stating this and we have hundreds of petitions where the signors have listed the date they knew about the project. The petitions include a column that asks when the signor learned about the project. "I had no knowledge of this project until...." Many people at the public hearing stated they did not know about the project. Byrd continues to quote the propaganda from Wood Duck stating they did a "quarter mile" door knocking. Well, the project is 20-30 miles and we have yet to find the folks that lived on that "quarter mile."

Byrd excuses the donation to her nonprofit because it was disclosed; yet, that promotes the agency as doing good and implies dissent is bad. Just because it was in the paper, doesn't make it proper. Just because the mission of the agency is good, doesn't make it proper. Just because she says she didn't solicit the donation to "Helping the Hardworking" doesn't make it proper. It would be interesting to know how Pope learned about "Helping the Hardworking" because Byrd says she told her about the nonprofits. It is noted in the application to the PSC, Wood Duck has only made 2 donations in 2024 and one was to Byrd's nonprofit.

As to the community advocate Byrd refers to, that is me. I met with Byrd on May 12th and Byrd notified Pope on May 11th to make sure she was available to answer any questions I had.

At the time of our meeting, I had not submitted an Open Records Request to the PSC and did not know that she was not supposed to be talking with the developer. I received the open records request on June 10th, that's when I learned of her appointment and her admonishment to refrain for contact. My ORR was related to Byrd telling a group of us that she "drove to Frankfort to try and stop the project." According to the PSC in the open records request, it was a phone call and they followed up with an email.

As to my questions for Wood Duck, they were designed for Byrd to ask to try and strengthen the county's position. Wood Duck refused to give a final map. Refused to clarify setbacks. Danced around questions and provided nothing on decommissioning. In a text message, Byrd told them the questions were from me, so they didn't half answer them. It was an attempt to quell the resistance.

Attached is an email I sent to the park superintendent dated March 17th. We had called and visited the park, trying to secure a meeting. Eventually a meeting was scheduled and later it was cancelled. We were told the park officials did not know about the project.

Perhaps this is why he was calling Byrd. We were trying to reach him. It was nice of Byrd to tell Pope to follow-up versus helping us to obtain a meeting. Was this follow-up or trying to quell the resistance?

Mammoth Cave is mentioned several times in the reports provided to the planning commission.

To my knowledge, there has not been any training with the fire departments that Byrd says she helped facilitate back in April. Has Wood Duck met to answer any questions? Is Pope a certified fire instructor? Some how the article failed to mention the \$21,800 solicitation Byrd made to the developer with a follow-up question of how much will you give?

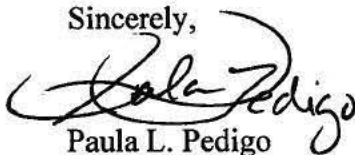
As to the incorrect address for the public hearing, Byrd texted me and I sent an email to the PSC.
(email attached)

In conclusion: Until I know the date the PSC changed their instructions; she was under the admonishment of no contact with the developer and was still advised she would be appointed to the PSC committee. So far, two ORRs have not produced this document. When I get it, if it exists, I will correct and clarify.

Based on the fact Byrd solicited money for a government agency, she in essence told them to stand down and refrain from discussing the project. Management by intimidation and the promise of reward.

Thank you for your attention in this manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paula L. Pedigo", written in a cursive style.

Paula L. Pedigo

Attachments: Fire department invoice
Article from the Barren County Progress
Text between Byrd and Kinslow
Email to Mammoth Cave Park Superintendent
Email to PSC over meeting location

Barren County scattered site solar installations

From: Paula Ratliff [REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Date: Monday, March 17, 2025 at 03:05 PM CDT

Dear Park Superintendent Trimble,

Thank you for agreeing to meet with us to discuss the Barren County solar project which covers 2,300 acres in the Bon Ayr, Merry Oaks, Railton and Park City areas. It is located in close proximity to the Mammoth Cave watershed, and we are uncertain as to exact boundaries of the watershed, both above and underground.

We would like to review the projected area which involves 27 separate tracks of land (surrounding residential homes and farms) and discuss with you the pathway of the run-off and underground water, which makes its way to both Mammoth Cave and Green River.

We have heard of studies involved green dye from this area and its arrival in Mammoth Cave? We are aware of Joe Ray's work, but uncertain as to applicability at this time.

Additionally, we would like to review the endangered and threatened species; as well as, the protected plants, both federal and state and review the process by which we protect them.

The scattered site project stretches thru 4 communities and covers multiple areas and many forested lands which are already being destroyed. The project has filed a notice of intent with the PSC and we are concerned with the validity and accuracy of the research conducted by their company. We are anticipating to intervene with the PSC.

I am attaching a copy of the study completed for the project and a map of the project area.

We welcome the opportunity to meet with you as we assess the potential threats to our agricultural lands, our wildlife and our beautiful flower and grasses. We can meet with you at your convenience and sincerely appreciate your willingness to help us save our beautiful county.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED] (the person who met Jessica)
Paula Pedigo (citizen advocate)



14. Critical Issues Analysis (Stantec).pdf
5.9 MB



4. Overall Site Plan (24x36) 2023.07.14_WD_Site_Plan_r8.pdf
814.2 kB



4. Parcel Map (24x36) 2023.06.15_WD_Parcel_Map_r0.pdf
691.3 kB



Compose

← Back



Move



Delete



Spam

... More



Meeting location

Aol/Sent ☆

**Paula Ratliff**

Tue, Jun 24 at 3:09 PM ☆

From: [REDACTED]

To: Bridwell, Linda C (PSC),

Finnerty Tara (PSC),

[REDACTED]

Shanda Bradley

Ladies,

County Judge Executive Byrd reached out to me today concerning the meeting location. The order states Barren County Fiscal Courthouse, 200 West Main Street and she said no one has requested to reserve space in the courthouse for a meeting.

The Barren County Courthouse is one location, the Barren County Fiscal Court is a different address. Judge Byrd does have the BC Fiscal Court meeting room available with a capacity of 83.

Appreciate a clarification asap. Thank you.
Paula

[Reply](#), [Reply All](#) or [Forward](#)

Send





107 Seventh St
Garden City, NY 11530, United States

First Due Quote

Prepared By: Eric Bambard

Valid Until: May 31, 2025

Quote Number: 1545132000435718296

Barren County Office of Emergency Management (KY)

We are excited to present pricing for the First Due Suite! Please see detailed breakdown below. It is important to note that First Due is a cloud-based system, and all Support, Maintenance, Hosting and Upgrades are ALWAYS INCLUDED.

First Due Modules and Implementation Services Included - Description

Occupancy Management & Pre-Incident Planning

Manage Occupancies, Pre-Incident Mapping, ArcGIS Maps, Fire Systems, Hazardous Material, and Contacts.

Responder

Web Responder dashboard and Responder iOS/Android App with notifications, statusing and routing.

Incident Reporting - NFIRS

NFIRS Incident Documentation, State and Federal Compliance with automated submission.

Personnel Management

Store, Manage and Access Employee Records including demographic data, certifications and employment information.

CAD Integration (Other)

Receive CAD Data to support First Due Responder and Incident Reporting modules via sFTP, XML, or API.

Essentials Online Training Package

Up to 4 Hours Online Training with certified First Due Instructor

Implementation and Configuration Services

Services related to configuring and customizing the First Due Platform as described in the Statement of Work.

One-Time Subtotal \$ 0.00

Subscription Subtotal \$ 21,800.00

Total Year 1 \$ 21,800.00

**Excluding Tax*

Terms and Conditions

Pricing presented is based on participation from the following departments and assumes coordinated implementation and training: Temple Hill, Haywood, Austin Tracy, East Barren, Hiseville, Cave City, Park City, South Barren

is an accident until we have training. I have asked for this training to be proactive. Please feel free to share my response to her.

WK

Tue, Jun 17 at 1:23 PM

Wes Kinslow

Do you know where we stand with the Solar Company and our software we ask them to purchase?

WK

They haven't responded on it yet