From: PSC Public Comment
To: Kenda Gammell
Subject: RE: Case No. 2025-00186
Date: Wednesday, November 4, 2026 12:02:00 PM

Case No. 2025-00186

Thank you for your comments on the application of Electronic Investigation of Nuclear Energy, Generation, Storage, and Related Matters. Your comments in the above-referenced matter have been received and will be placed into the case file for the Commission's consideration. Please cite the case number in this matter, 2025-00186 in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at View Case Filings for: 2025-00186 (ky.gov).

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

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Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2026 4:22 AM
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Why Kentucky?

They are building a web. Three facilities. One fuel supply chain. And Kentucky is the fly.

Start in the west. McCracken County, on the grounds of the old Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant. That plant enriched uranium from 1952 to 2013 — first for weapons, then for reactors. It left behind 200,000 metric tons of depleted uranium tails and a groundwater plume of technetium-99 and TCE that forced DOE to supply city water to neighbors whose wells went bad.

Now the Australian company Silex Systems — through its American subsidiary Global Laser Enrichment, 51 percent Silex, 49 percent Canadian Cameco — is building the Paducah Laser Enrichment Facility. 1.76 billion. 98.9 million in state and county tax incentives. The county's 71.9 million share is hidden under a nondisclosure agreement.

Silex has a history. The SILEX technology was invented in Sydney in the 1990s. In 1996, Silex licensed it to the United States Enrichment Corporation. USEC walked away in 2003. In 2007, General Electric picked it up. GE Hitachi spun off Global Laser Enrichment in 2008. The NRC licensed a commercial facility in Wilmington, North Carolina, in 2012. That plant was never built — shelved because of low uranium prices and surplus enrichment capacity. In 2014, Silex halved its workforce. In 2016, GE Hitachi withdrew entirely, writing off its investment. In 2018, Silex announced it was abandoning the American venture and repatriating the technology to Australia.

Then the market shifted. In 2021, Silex bought back in, taking 51 percent of GLE. In 2016, GLE had signed an agreement with DOE to purchase 200,000 metric tons of depleted uranium hexafluoride tails from Paducah. The NRC published its final environmental impact statement on October 23, 2026, and recommended issuing the license. Kentucky Resources Council petitioned for a hearing. The NRC denied their standing. In September 2026, Cameco signed an exclusive offtake agreement to buy 100 percent of production. The fuel has a buyer before the plant has a license.

Next door, General Matter — a Peter Thiel-backed startup founded in 2024 — is building a 1.5 billion enrichment plant on 100 acres leased from DOE. 900 million federal contract. NRC license application submitted September 28, 2026. The technology is redacted as a trade secret. The environmental report is public. The enrichment method is not.

Now look east. Two hundred and eighty miles away. Carrs Bottom, Lewis County, Kentucky. Jonathan Webb's Nuclear Company wants six Westinghouse AP1000 reactors on 4,200 acres of Ohio River bottomland. 6.6 gigawatts. That site is 26 miles from my front door in Fleming County.

No NRC license application. No PJM grid-connection request. No announced power buyer. No published cooling design. No federal loan.

What they have is KRS 278.615, effective July 15, 2026, which lets a regulated utility recover from ratepayers the costs of applying for a nuclear early site permit, construction permit, or combined operating license. They have SB 57, signed April 8, 2026, which funds state grants up to 25 million per project toward NRC licensing and exempts grant applications from Kentucky's Open Records Act. They have SB 11, signed March 27, 2017, which repealed the requirement that Kentucky have a permanent disposal plan before building a nuclear plant.

The sequence is not a coincidence. The 2017 door. The 2026 money pipeline. The October 21, 2026 announcement.

And now the foreign money. On September 30, 2026, the United States and South Korea announced a framework agreement. South Korea will invest up to 120 billion in American nuclear projects. Six Westinghouse AP1000s and two Korean APR1400s on federal sites. A 10 billion advance payment by the end of 2026. Korea Electric Power Corporation and Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power may take a 5 to 10 percent stake in Westinghouse. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said the reactors will go in Ohio, Tennessee, South Carolina, and Kentucky.

The United Arab Emirates is watching. The UAE's Barakah plant — four APR1400s built by South Korea — came online between 2020 and 2024. In May 2026, a drone strike hit Barakah Unit 3 and knocked out off-site power. The IAEA called the response effective. The UAE is now positioning itself as a transnational nuclear investor, signing agreements to co-finance projects in the United States, South Korea, and Romania.

This is the same recycled uranium fuel cycle that Y-12 National Security Complex ran from 1953 to 1989. A 2000 DOE report — Y/LB-16,036, Rev. 1 — documents 17.3 metric tons of uranium that cannot be accounted for. It documents 2,200 grams of neptunium missing from the mass balance. It documents 2,345 grams of technetium on site beyond what the records can explain. It documents groundwater contamination around the S-3 waste ponds. It admits that earlier estimates of uranium releases had been underestimated.

The report's conclusion? The quantities are "very small" and pose "no threat."

That is the vocabulary of the machine. De minimis. No significant exposure potential. Underestimated but not high-priority. The study that would tell us was never funded. The study cannot see us.

Kentucky is being positioned as the nuclear fuel cycle state. Enrich it in the west. Burn it in the northeast. Store the waste wherever poor counties will take the money. The jobs are temporary. The contamination is permanent. The profits go to Australia, Canada, South Korea, and the Persian Gulf. The risk stays here.

The same governor who calls the Paducah project "the single largest capital investment in western Kentucky history" is being asked to bless Prosperity One with less oversight,

fewer conditions, and more risk.

They want to turn Kentucky — the state of beautiful horses and wild women, of bluegrass and bottomland, of small farms and stubborn people — into a nuclear corridor from one end to the other. A fuel supply chain with a Kentucky address at every link.

One web. Three facilities. And the same old pattern: the industry gets the incentives, the workers get the doses, and the ratepayers get the bill.

Every Kentuckian who pays an electric bill is already in this fight. The only question is whether we fight back.

Sources:
- Y/LB-16,036, Rev. 1, "Recycled Uranium Mass Balance Project Y-12 National Security Complex Site Report," December 2000
- NRC Final Environmental Impact Statement, Global Laser Enrichment LLC Paducah Laser Enrichment Facility, October 23, 2026
- Silex Systems / Global Laser Enrichment corporate disclosures, September 2026
- General Matter NRC license application, September 28, 2026
- U.S. Department of Commerce, "Korea and United States Announce Historic Strategic Investment Projects," September 30, 2026
- IAEA Mission Report, Barakah Nuclear Power Plant, October 2026
- Kentucky Economic Development Finance Authority incentive agreements, March 2026
- KRS 278.615, effective July 15, 2026
- SB 57, signed April 8, 2026
- SB 11, signed March 27, 2017

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