

RECEIVED

June 2, 2025

JUN 09 2025

PUBLIC SERVICE  
COMMISSION

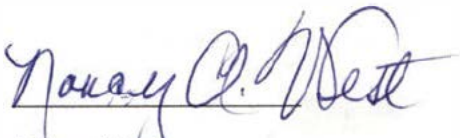
Kentucky State Board on Electric Generation  
211 Sower Boulevard  
PO Box 615  
Frankfort, KY 40602

Case: Wood Duck Solar LLC 2024-00337

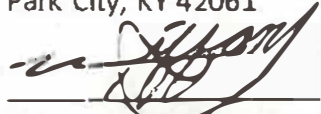
Geenex Solar / Juergen Fehr – owner

We the undersigned are residents of Barren County, Kentucky and are requesting an evidentiary hearing and a public hearing for the above referenced case. We are attaching a few articles which tried to give us a voice after the project was approved by our local planning commission. We respectfully request that both hearings be held in Barren County, if possible.

Sincerely,



Nancy West  
1307 Millstown Road  
Park City, KY 42061

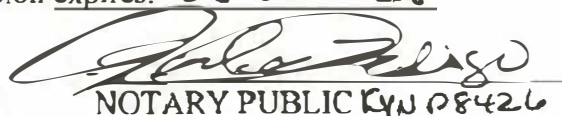


Tiffany Mitchell-Thompson  
3303 Millstown Road  
Park City, KY 42061



Ann Stephens  
6744 Dripping Springs Road  
Smiths Grove, KY 42171

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me, a notary public, on this day personally appeared Nancy West, Tiffany Mitchell-Thompson and Ann Stephens on this the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of June, 2025. My Commission expires: 06-01-2028

  
NOTARY PUBLIC KY 08426

WEEKEND

BOWLING GREEN

DAILY



NEWS

PARK CITY

SINCE 1854

WWW.BGDAILYNEWS.COM

MARCH 2, 2025

BARREN COUNTY

# Solar project moving ahead

While some residents  
concerned, county lacks  
zoning to stop project

JACK DOBBS  
*Daily News*

A planned 2,300-acre solar energy project that would spread across different tracts of Barren County farmland has drawn concern from residents.

The problem is that county government can't stop the project since there are essentially no applicable zoning regulations within the county.

"Barren County does not have land use restrictions, or in other words, zoning," Planning and Zoning head Kevin Myatt told the Daily News. "There is no dictation of property on the use. The only thing we can regulate are setbacks and subdivision regulations, by law."

The solar project is known as Wood Duck Solar, and is being pushed by Geenex, a Charlotte,

See SOLAR, 3A

over →

From Page 1A

## SOLAR

North Carolina-based solar energy company. Geenex currently operates solar farms across North Carolina, along with some farms in Virginia and one in Ohio, according to its website.

Wood Duck is the only solar farm Geenex has under development in Kentucky. According to Wood Duck's page, the project will generate 100 megawatts of electricity once completed, enough to power 15,000 homes.

Geenex is expected to invest \$130 million into the project, a company video online states. Wood Duck is predicted to bring 323 new jobs to the county and could generate tax revenues of up to \$387,000 each year for up to 40 years.

The video also states that \$15.1 million would come to local jurisdictions, of which \$11 million would go to local school districts.

A document from the citizens group Advocates for Farm Preservation was shared with the Daily News. Listed in it are concerns over what an influx of solar panels would do to the county's aesthetics and resources.

"We believe this development is detrimental to our agricultural lands, our natural resources of Barren River Lake and Mammoth Cave National Park and many species of animals, mammals, birds, flowers and grasses that adorn our beautiful countryside," the document states.

The group also says the project would not reduce energy costs for Barren Countians and will lead to reduced property values and increased safety hazards.

Additionally, the group states that solar panels "are not recyclable and are not accepted at landfills" once their operational lives are finished.

"What I did feel like this one project will do (is) help kind of push that need for planning and zoning in the county."

**Jamie Bewley Byrd**

*Barren County judge-executive*

A variance was applied for by the company in December 2023. Myatt said the company asked for "zero lot lines" to be allowed for the solar panels, which means they could be constructed on or very close to property lines.

The variance was approved and Myatt said a presentation will be made to the Kentucky Public Service Commission, a body that oversees utility services across the state. According to planning commission records, the 2,334.61-acre project will sit on the north and south sides of the Cumberland Parkway.

Myatt said the project will be handled at the state level.

"Unless the magistrates create an ordinance for land use in the county, we can't supersede them," Myatt said. "We can't just create an ordinance on our own, so we have to wait for the legislative body to tell us they want this or they want that."

Even if a land use ordinance was passed it would not stop the solar project, Myatt said, since it would be considered grandfathered in. As for why there is no zoning in the county, Myatt said it comes down to a simple reason.

"Up until the last few years, our magistrates have not deemed it a necessary issue," he said. "Until the magistrates of the county deem it worthy to start holding talks about having zoning in the county, it's a dead issue."

Barren County Judge-Executive Jamie Bewley Byrd told the Daily News

she has had talks with landowners who would have solar panels installed on their land.

"I've talked to the property owners, and they're excited," she said. "They get to keep the family farm (and) they're going to make more money doing it this way."

She added that she has received some phone calls about the issue and one person sent her a letter. She said while property owners who have panels coming are excited, those who do not are less enthusiastic.

She said the county has added in additional fees that will apply to inspections of the project. Additionally, those who have panels installed will pay tax rates for commercial property. She said while this is a downside to having the panels built, it will mean more revenue for the county and local school systems.

Even though any changes in county zoning would not affect this project, Bewley Byrd thinks this project may open the door for conversations about county land use. Locally though, it's a done deal.

"We can't stop it at the local level at all," she said. "What I did feel like this one project will do (is) help kind of push that need for planning and zoning in the county. But this project itself is already in motion."

The Daily News reached out to Geenex for comment but did not receive comment in time for publication.



# SOLAR CONCERNS



GRACE MCCOWELL / Daily News

Water flows along Green River at Mammoth Cave National Park in 2021.0

## Mammoth Cave NP opposing Barren County solar project

### Potential chemical spills among park's concerns

**JACK DOBBS**  
*Daily News*

As a controversial solar energy project moves ahead in Barren County, Mammoth Cave National Park has expressed concern over what it has described as a lack of communication from the company behind the project.

The solar project is known as Wood Duck Solar by Geenex, a Charlotte, North Carolina-based solar energy company. The project aims to construct solar panels across more than 2,300 acres in Barren County. According to Wood Duck's website, the project will generate 100 megawatts of electricity once completed, enough to power 15,000 homes.

Residents of Barren County have expressed concerns over the potential impact the panels would have on farm-

land and possible reductions in property values and an increase in safety risks.

However, since there are essentially no applicable zoning regulations in Barren County, local government cannot stop the project.

"Barren County does not have land use restrictions, or in other words, zoning," Planning and Zoning head Kevin Myatt told the Daily News in March. "There is no dictation of property on the use. The only thing we can regulate are setbacks and subdivision regulations, by law."

The Daily News obtained a copy of a letter dated April 15 and sent from park Superintendent Barclay Trimble to the Kentucky Public Service Commission which outlines some of the park's concerns.

"The (National Park Service) has unsuccessfully sought clarity to spe-

cific questions (1) would electricity be stored on-site in batteries? (2) what type of batteries would be used? (3) what steps or measures would be installed to prevent leaking or spilling of chemicals from these batteries, or other specific infrastructure ...

"Since these questions remain unanswered after multiple attempts to have dialogue with (Geenex) LLC over the past several months, the NPS is choosing to speak out in opposition of this project ...," the letter states.

Mammoth Cave representatives told the Daily News via email that since the panels are proposed to go up in the park's drainage basin, leaking chemicals could pollute groundwater and harm the 160 species of animals that rely on the cave system.

**See PARK, 3A**

From Page 1A

## PARK

This includes species of eyeless fish, crayfish and the Kentucky Cave Shrimp, which only lives in the cave system and is federally designated as an endangered species.

"There have been spills and leaks outside of park boundaries in the past that have entered the cave system," according to Mammoth Cave's statement.

"The park works with local and state agencies and our communities to ensure safeguards are in place to prevent and respond to chemical spills to limit impacts to the cave system."

The letter was received by the commission and Sheri Mahan, executive adviser for Public Service Commission, told the Daily News a public comment hearing will be held "in the near future" regarding the solar project, but a time and location for the meeting have not been set.



## Mammoth Cave voices potential concerns over proposed Barren County solar farm

A solar farm project in Barren County has been a hotly contested topic among area residents with many being vocally against the project.

By [Adam Ferguson](#)

Published: Apr. 30, 2025 at 6:02 PM CDT

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (WBKO)-A solar farm project in Barren County has been a hotly contested topic among area residents with many being vocally against the project as it inches closer to becoming a reality.

The Wood Duck Solar Project has proposed a 100 MW utility-scale solar development situated on 2,300 acres of leased land in Barren County.

The company says it could deliver enough electricity to power 17,000 homes annually, depending on power grid needs, and raise revenues in taxes that would go back to the community.

Recently, the National Park Service has voiced concerns regarding the project as well.

In a formal statement to the Board for Electric Generation and Transmission made on April 15, the National Park Service alleges that Geenex Solar, the LLC behind the proposed project, has not satisfied concerns that the project could cause harm to Mammoth Cave's ecosystem.

"All the water drains very quickly under the ground here and gets into our cave system where many animals live," said Mammoth Cave public information officer, Molly Schroer. "We have about 160 species of animals that actively use the cave. Many of those rely on that water flowing through the cave as a water source and for their livelihood."

One animal of particular note is an extremely rare crustacean known as the Kentucky cave shrimp.

"They're federally endangered, only found within the Mammoth Cave system, they rely on the water and the habitat within the cave, so we're trying to keep it as healthy and safe for them as possible," said Schroer.

Some questions posed by the park service include whether electricity would be stored on-site in batteries, what type of batteries would be used, and what measures would be in place to prevent chemicals and other harmful pollutants from entering the caves.

Park officials said multiple attempts have been made to have a dialogue with Geenex LLC over the last several months regarding the solar farm project, but thus far their concerns have not been addressed.

"We have not received any information from Geenex about the project, and so we really are just looking for information. We can't weigh in yes or no until we really see the project and know what it is. We're not right now just because we haven't seen the information," said Schroer.

WBKO reached out to Geenex LLC for comment, who said they are aware of the National Park Service's letter and concerns.

Geenex officials stated that there are no batteries in the scope of this project and are happy to discuss any other concerns that the park may have, while asserting that community engagement is a point of pride for the company.

*Copyright 2025 WBKO. All rights reserved.*

## Mammoth Cave 'in opposition' of proposed Barren County solar farm

May 1, 2025 | 11:06 AM

By MICHAEL CRIMMINS

Glasgow News 1

Mammoth Cave National Park shared its concern regarding the proposed Wood Duck Solar project.

Superintendent of the park, Barclay Trimble, recently wrote a letter to the Sitting Board for Electric Generation and Transmission expressing his, and the National Park Service's apprehension, noting that parts of the 2,300-acre facility, which, according to prior reporting, will span 28 tracts of land and multiple landowners, will be located in Mammoth Cave's "watershed basin."

"The [National Park Service] is taking this opportunity to raise awareness that a lack of communication from [Geenex] Solar has not satisfied concerns that this project may lead to irreversible harm to the...basin," the letter stated. "Since these questions remain unanswered after multiple attempts to have [a] dialogue with Geenex over the past several months, the [park service] is choosing to speak out in opposition of this project."

Citing the Endangered Species Act, the letter stated that the animal "of greatest concern" is the Kentucky Cave Shrimp, which lives in cave streams "fed by surface water from [the basin]," according to the letter. The National Park Service reports that the shrimp are federally endangered and found only in the "immediate vicinity of Mammoth Cave."

In closing, Trimble asks the board to consider the environmental protection of the species when making their decision.

"The National Park Service...[is] requesting the board to consider environmental protection of these endangered species when debating the merits of this project," the letter reads.

The Case Management System of the Kentucky Public Service Commission, where the decision regarding the solar farm project will be made, reports no decision has yet been reached.

Barren County Fiscal Court recently approved the first reading of a countywide solar ordinance that adds additional requirements future solar developments must adhere to, like a 1,000-foot setback. The ordinance would not affect the Wood Duck Solar project.

## 'It's too little, too late': Barren Co. gives initial approval to solar farm ordinance amid controversial project

WKU Public Radio | By [Lisa Autry](#)

Published April 29, 2025 at 6:40 PM CDT



Geenex Solar

As a controversial solar project moves forward, Barren County is considering restrictions on future development.

Some members of the community are fighting a planned 100-megawatt solar energy array by private developer [Geenex Solar](#). The company plans to invest \$130 million to develop the site which spans the communities of Bon Ayr, Park City, Railton, and Merry Oaks in Barren County. It's expected to surround local homes and farms right up to their property lines.

Barren County Fiscal Court gave initial approval Tuesday to an [ordinance](#) banning future solar projects within 1,000 feet of non-participating landowners whose property lines are close to solar farms.

Tiffany Thompson raises horses and cattle on a 160-acre farm adjacent to the proposed [Wood Duck Solar Project](#). While she supports the ordinance that restricts future projects, Thompson said it won't stop the current development from decreasing her property value.

"It does nothing to help us. It's too little, too late. There's been studies done that they (solar farms) put heavy metals into the soil, they put glass into the soil. It's going to ruin farmland for decades, if you can ever farm it again," Thompson told WKU Public Radio. "There's not good research proving this doesn't leak into our groundwater, that this isn't going to affect my soil and my livestock."





Lisa Autry

Barren Co. Judge-Executive Jamie Bewley Byrd speaks with concerned landowner Tiffany Thompson on Apr. 23, 2025 about the proposed Geenex Solar project.

The ordinance must receive two readings to pass. A date hasn't been set for a second vote on the measure.

Barren County Judge-Executive Jamie Bewley Byrd said she thinks the ordinance will make it harder for private companies to develop solar projects.

"Honestly, I feel like this ordinance will stop it," said Byrd. "People can still do it, but 1,000 feet is a lot. You have to have a lot of land to be able to do it."

In the meantime, local property owners, as well as Mammoth Cave National Park continue to push back against the Geenex project, which is seeking final approval from the Kentucky Public Service Commission.

In a [letter](#) to the utility regulator, the national park raises environmental concerns, particularly the federally endangered [Kentucky Cave Shrimp](#), which live in cave streams fed by surface water from parts of the solar project.

"The NPS is taking this opportunity to raise awareness that a lack of communication from Geenex Solar has not satisfied concerns that this project may lead to irreversible harm to the endangered cave shrimp basin," wrote Mammoth Cave National Park Superintendent Barclay Trimble.

The letter seeks clarification on whether electricity would be stored on-site in batteries, what types of batteries would be used, and what measures would be taken to prevent the leaking of chemicals from the batteries.

Mammoth Cave is the largest cave system on earth, receiving some 600,000 visitors per year, according to the federal government.

Geenex Solar didn't respond to an interview request, but a video on its website says the proposed Barren County project is expected to deliver enough electricity to power around 17,000 homes annually.

Opponents of the 2,300-acre solar energy array plan to seek a hearing before the PSC. Pending state approval, the site could be operational in 2026, according to project's [timeline](#).

## Tags

[News](#)

[solar energy](#)[Barren County](#)



[Lisa Autry](#)

Lisa is a Scottsville native and WKU alum. She has worked in radio as a news reporter and anchor for 18 years. Prior to joining WKU Public Radio, she most recently worked at WHAS in Louisville and WLAC in Nashville. She has received numerous awards from the Associated Press, including Best Reporter in Kentucky. Many of her stories have been heard on NPR.