

From: [PSC Public Comment](#)
To: "Andrew McDonald"
Subject: RE: Comment - Nuclear Case No 2025-00186
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 1:43:00 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.

From: Andrew McDonald [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 11:33 AM
To: PSC Public Comment <PSC.Comment@ky.gov>
Subject: Comment - Nuclear Case No 2025-00186

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

To: Kentucky Public Service Commission
Subject: Case No. 2025-00186
April 14, 2026

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my concerns with nuclear power as a potential energy source for Kentucky. I am a resident of Franklin County, Kentucky, the Director of Apogee – Climate and Energy Transitions, and the Chair of the Board of the Kentucky Solar Energy Society. These are my personal comments and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Kentucky Solar Energy Society.

I have been working in the energy field for more than 30 years and have worked on energy and utility policy in Kentucky since 2003. Throughout that time I have sought to identify and work for solutions to the climate crisis, especially in the areas of energy and the built environment. Although nuclear energy is often cited as an important energy source with low carbon and other air emissions, my judgement is that its costs and risks far outweigh its benefits.

Meanwhile, we have technologies to power our economy which are proven, reliable, lower cost, faster to build, deployable at most any scale, and which use renewable resources, produce zero carbon emissions, do not impact air or water quality, are insulated from fuel price volatility and fuel disruptions, and pose dramatically lower risks to public health and the environment. Those technologies are solar, wind, battery storage, and energy efficiency. Nuclear power's costs and risks are too great and unnecessary, as I will review below.

Nuclear waste presents both near- and very long-term risks to human health and the environment. High-level nuclear waste can remain radioactive and toxic for thousands of years and there is no long-term solution to this issue. Proposals to build new nuclear reactors, whether conventional large units or "small modular reactors" raise the issue of where all the new nuclear waste will be stored, how it will be transported to storage, and what communities will be saddled with this hazardous waste for centuries and millennia to come. We should be vigilant to prevent Kentucky communities from becoming nuclear waste storage sites.

The long-term cost of waste management should be factored into the cost of nuclear energy. Economic models that do not account for the long-term cost of waste management provide a false indication of nuclear powers' costs. This shifts cost burdens onto the public and future generations, subsidizing today's nuclear developers at our children's and grandchildren's expense.

The risk of accidents and who owns the liability must be faced. The potential for accidents exists at every stage of the nuclear production cycle, including at the reactor, in processing facilities, and in material and waste transport and storage. The risks are not only associated with potentially catastrophic reactor meltdowns, but with leaks, spills, and transportation accidents that can do serious harm to local communities and watersheds. Do the utilities and developers working on nuclear power bear the liability for accidents throughout the lifecycle and are those costs factored into the estimated cost of power? If not, the public and future generations bear tremendous financial risk while private investors enjoy the profits.

The weaponization of nuclear materials is a serious risk. The more nuclear reactors that are built, the more opportunities there are for nuclear materials to fall into the hands of terrorists.

Nuclear power is not needed to meet Kentucky's need for clean, reliable energy.

Moreover, resources spent on nuclear divert resources from better alternatives that are cheaper, faster to build, and safer – e.g. solar, wind, battery storage, and energy efficiency.

New nuclear power is not a viable solution to the climate crisis because nuclear power plants take too long to build and cost much more than renewables, battery storage, and energy efficiency.

Global climate agreements call for cutting global carbon emissions 50% by 2030 to minimize the impacts of climate change. At this point it appears unlikely we will meet this target, but the essential fact remains that we must reduce carbon emissions as rapidly as possible. Speed of construction is not a hallmark of nuclear power.

Solar, wind, and battery storage can be all be deployed at a much faster pace than nuclear, as

can the diverse range of energy efficiency measures.

Nuclear power plants require enormous capital investments which could pose major financial risks to ratepayers. Investors and utility shareholders may be excited by the potential profits available but that doesn't mean it's in the public interest.

I urge the Commission to take a very skeptical approach to any proposed nuclear power development in Kentucky; to demand that its developers and utilities take full responsibility for its waste and the risks of the technology throughout its lifecycle; and to weigh its benefits, costs, and risks against all available alternatives.

Sincerely,

Andy McDonald

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