

Andy Beshear
Governor

Rebecca W. Goodman
Secretary
Energy and Environment Cabinet



Michael J. Schmitt
Chairman

Commonwealth of Kentucky
**Kentucky State Board on
Electric Generation and
Transmission Siting**
211 Sower Blvd.
P.O. Box 615
Frankfort, Kentucky 40602-0615
Telephone: (502) 564-3940

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Karen Wilson
502-782-7136 or 502-564-3940
KarenL.Wilson@ky.gov

Siting Board Approves 100-Megawatt Solar Project Proposed for Madison County

FRANKFORT Ky (June 10, 2021)—The Kentucky Electric Generation and Transmission Siting Board has approved, with modifications and conditions, an application from AEUG Madison Solar, LLC (Madison Solar), to construct a 100-megawatt (MW) solar facility in Madison County, Kentucky. The proposed 1,700-acre site is in Richmond on land that has been in agricultural use.

Madison Solar is a limited liability company, incorporated in Delaware, with a principal place of business in Chicago, Illinois. The project will sell power into the regional wholesale electricity market operated by PJM Interconnection, LLC, interconnecting to the grid via an existing East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Inc., transmission line that crosses the property.

The Siting Board, created in 2002 by the Kentucky General Assembly, reviews applications for the construction of electric generating facilities of 10MW or greater proposed by merchant generators. Merchant generators sell the electricity they produce in the wholesale market at rates not regulated by the Public Service Commission (PSC).

Madison Solar submitted its application, including the required Site Assessment Report, on December 11, 2020. As required by statute, Madison Solar conducted public outreach prior to filing its application, including a public meeting on Aug. 6, 2020, and published notice of the proposed facility in the local newspaper. Madison Solar also notified 162 landowners whose property borders the proposed facility. There were no intervention requests. A formal evidentiary hearing was conducted on April 15, 2021. Several members of the public provided comments on the proposed facility.

As authorized by statute, the Siting Board retained a consultant to review Madison Solar's Site Assessment Report and proposed mitigation measures. The Site Assessment Report, per statute, must contain a detailed site description of the proposed facility, as well as potential impacts to surrounding property both during construction and operation post-construction. In addition to evaluation of the factors contained in the Site Assessment Report, KRS 278.710(1) directs the Siting Board to consider the following criteria in making a decision:

- Economic impact on the affected region and state;
- Existence of other generation facilities;
- Local planning and zoning requirements;
- Potential impact on the electricity transmission system;
- Compliance with statutory setback requirements; and
- History of environmental compliance.

-MORE-

Madison Solar estimates approximately 394 full-time employees will be hired during the construction phase of the project. Most of these positions will be craft workers and contractors. During the operations phase, approximately 10 positions will be employed. Based on the review of the evidence provided in the case, the Siting Board has determined the solar project will have a positive economic impact in the region.

Madison County enacted an ordinance in July 2020 requiring commercial solar energy facilities proposed on agricultural lands to obtain a conditional use permit (CUP) before construction can begin. The county approved Madison Solar's CUP on December 3, 2020. The CUP contains conditions that address local issues such as signage, lighting, fencing, and decommissioning and establishes setbacks between the facility and roads, adjoining properties, and nearby residences.

The Siting Board conditions its approval upon the full implementation of mitigation measures and conditions, including:

- Submitting a revised site development plan upon completion of a field survey and before constructions begins;
- Providing a vegetation buffer to create a visual shield between the site and nearby homes;
- Installing anti-glare solar PV panels and operating panels in such a way that glare is eliminated;
- Placing high voltage warning signs along the perimeter of the site and at all entrances and controlling access to the site during construction and operation;
- Applying best management practices to control dust;
- Developing a traffic management plan to minimize impacts and ensure safety and compliance with state and local road permit, truck weight, and other requirements;
- Establishing a regular construction schedule, with hours between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday;
- Deploying noise suppression methods during pile driving activity that occurs within 1,500 feet of a residence or other noise-sensitive receptor;
- Implementing a Customer Resolution Program to address any complaints from surrounding properties;
- Complying with the CUP's decommissioning requirements and filing the decommissioning plan with the Siting Board; and
- Maintaining compliance with all applicable planning and zoning ordinances of Richmond and Madison County.

More details on mitigation measures and conditions are contained in an appendix to the Order.

The Siting Board consists of the three members of the PSC, the secretary of Kentucky Energy and Environmental Cabinet (EEC) or a designee, the secretary of the Kentucky Economic Development Cabinet (CED) or a designee and two local members appointed by the governor to serve for a specific case. The chairman of the PSC serves as chairman of the Siting Board. The local members in this case are Reagan Taylor, Madison County Judge Executive, and Richard M. Thomas, of Madison County.

The Siting Board is headquartered at the PSC and PSC staff also serves as staff to the Siting Board. The Siting Board's operations are funded through fees paid by applicants. For a complete description of the review process, mitigation measures and conditions, public comments, and other case filings, please visit the Siting Board at <https://psc.ky.gov/Case/ViewCaseFilings/2020-00219>. The Case No. is 2020-00219.

-END-