

Tab 7
Efforts to Locate Project Near Existing
Electric Generating Facilities

TAB 7 EFFORTS TO LOCATE NEAR EXISTING ELECTRIC GENERATING FACILITIES

KRS 278.706(2)(g) A summary of the efforts made by the applicant to locate the proposed facility on a site where existing electric generating facilities are located.

The Project is not located on a site where existing electric generating facilities are located. The main site selection criteria utilized for solar projects are land availability, landowner willingness to lease land, proximity to the bulk power transmission system, available electrical injection capability, adequacy of solar irradiance, and topography of the site.

An existing bulk transmission line is located in the vicinity of the Project Site. The transmission system in the area is currently owned and maintained by Kentucky Power, within the PJM Interconnection, LLC (PJM) regional transmission organization footprint. To establish a generation Project, the electrical grid must be able to accommodate a new Project Sites's generating capacity at a selected POI. The POI is the location on the specified transmission line or infrastructure where the Project Site will transmit power to the existing electric grid. The capacity of the nearby transmission line and anticipated costs of upgrades to accommodate a new interconnection at the POI were evaluated, and it was determined that an up to 200 MW project was viable in the general area of the proposed Project Site.

While the Project Site has no existing electric generating facilities, the site was previously used for the extraction of energy resources, as the Project is located on the site of a former surface coal mine. Mining activities at the site, previously owned by the Martin County Coal Corporation, consisted of contour mining and mountain removal mining. Mining activities were conducted under permits issued by the Kentucky Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement (KDMRE) and were concluded in 2005. The reclamation bond was released in August 2015. As the location of a former surface coal mine, the land surface in the Project Site has been subject to significant past disturbance.