

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE ELECTRIC GENERATION  
AND TRANSMISSION SITING BOARD**

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION OF PIKE )  
COUNTY SOLAR PROJECT, LLC FOR A )  
CERTIFICATE OF CONSTRUCTION FOR AN )  
UP TO 100 MEGAWATT MERCHANT )  
ELECTRIC SOLAR GENERATING FACILITY )  
IN PIKE COUNTY, KENTUCKY )

Case No. 2024-00105

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**PIKE COUNTY SOLAR PROJECT LLC’S RESPONSE TO CONSULTANT REPORT**

Pike County Solar Project, LLC (“Pike County Solar”) provides the following response to Harvey Economics’ (“HE”) Review of Pike County Solar’s Site Assessment Report for Solar Facilities (“SAR” or “Report”) filed on September 10, 2024. Pike County Solar appreciates the thorough review and analysis of the proposed project and proposed location. Pike County Solar respectfully submits its response to the Report as set forth below, including proposed modifications to the mitigation measures contained in the Report.

**Section A. Site development plan**

**Recommendation 7:** *The Applicant or its contractor will control access to the site during construction and operation. Site entrances will be gated and locked when not in use.*

**Response:** Pike County Solar requests that the Board modify this recommendation to better align with the unique characteristics of the site. Pike County Solar requests modification of this mitigation measure as follows: The Applicant or its contractor will control access to the site during construction and operation. The Applicant or its contractor will ensure any construction entrances will be gated and locked when not in use.

## **Section B. Compatibility with scenic surrounds**

**Recommendation 4:** *The Applicant will use anti-glare panels and operate the panels in such a way that glare from the panels is minimized or eliminated. The Applicant will immediately adjust solar panel operations upon any complaint about glare from those living, working, flying or traveling in proximity to the Project.*

**Response:** Pike County Solar does not object to the first sentence of this Recommendation. Pike County Solar requests that the second sentence be eliminated, as issues regarding glare are appropriately and more efficiently handled through Pike County Solar’s forthcoming Complaint Resolution Plan.

Additionally, the current language of this Recommendation states that “any” complaint “immediately” requires Pike County Solar to adjust operations. This language leaves no room for investigation into the merit or nature of the complaint without potentially significant operational impacts to the facility. Utilization of the Complaint Resolution Plan is a reasonable approach to addressing any complaint alleging glare impact.

Pike County Solar also notes that conditions implementing this recommendation have not been included in other orders granted by the Board. For instance, in both *Horus Kentucky 1 LLC*, Case No. 2020-00417, and *Thoroughbred Solar LLC*, Case No. 2022-000115, HE issued the reports evaluating the projects’ site assessment reports. Both HE reports make similar recommendations concerning glare to Recommendation No. 5 here. (Page VI-4 of the Review and Evaluation of the *Horus Kentucky 1, LLC* Site Assessment Report; Page V-62 of the Review and Evaluation of the *Thoroughbred Solar LLC* Site Assessment Report). However, in Board’s final orders in both *Horus Kentucky 1 LLC* and *Thoroughbred Solar LLC*, no glare-specific condition was included. Pike County Solar requests a consistent outcome in its proceeding, particularly given the remote and elevated location of the Project Area.

**Recommendation 6:** *If any components of the Facility are visible to neighboring homes after construction, the Applicant shall assess the feasibility of a screening plan, including consulting with neighbors to determine whether there are adverse impacts to their viewshed. If a screening plan is considered, regardless of whether it is ultimately implemented, notice of such consideration shall be filed with the Siting Board.*

**Response:** Pike County Solar request that the Board not adopt this recommendation because it is unnecessary to address public concerns. Further, Pike County Solar has committed to a Complaint Resolution Plan that will adequately address reasonable complaints from the public, including with respect to viewshed impacts.

**Section D. Anticipated peak and average noise levels.**

**Recommendation 3:** *If pile driving activity occurs within 1,500 feet of a noise sensitive receptor, the Applicant shall implement a construction method that will suppress the noise generated during the pile driving process (i.e., semi-tractor and canvas method; sound blankets on fencing surrounding the Project site; or any other comparably effective method).*

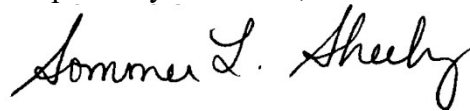
**Response:** Pike County Solar requests that the Board not adopt this recommendation because the Project will utilize pile-driving equipment that is substantially smaller than that used in conventional civil construction. The Vermeer or similar sized pile installation equipment to be used is tailored to the solar market and is less than 50 horsepower. Thus, it is expected that the sound level associated with this equipment will be significantly quieter than a typical pile driver. While specific sound data for this smaller equipment has not been identified, similar equipment in the United Kingdom has been identified to have a sound level of 87 dBA when evaluated at only 10 meters (33 feet). This would be equivalent to 83 dBA at 50 feet and similar in sound level to typical construction equipment (nominally 85 dBA at 50 feet). Therefore, impacts are expected

to be substantially less than would require pile-driving mitigation within 1,000 feet of a noise-sensitive receptor.

**Recommendation 5:** *The Applicant shall maintain functional mufflers on all diesel-powered equipment.*

**Response:** Pike County Solar requests that the Board not adopt this recommendation. There is no indication that diesel-powered equipment will produce nuisance sound levels to the public and, if that were the case, the Complaint Resolution Plan would adequately address any noise complaints. This Recommendation has the potential to significantly increase the cost of construction and limit available equipment, without a corresponding benefit to the public.

Respectfully submitted,



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