

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 Facility will not be 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 Facility Area. The transmission line 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 facility, the electrical grid must be able to accommodate a new facility's generating capacity at a selected POI. The POI is the location on the specified transmission line or infrastructure where the facility 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 100 MW project was viable in the general area of the proposed Facility.

While the Facility Area has no existing electric generating facilities, the site was previously used for the extraction of energy resources, as the Facility is located on the site of former surface and underground coal mines. Mining activities at the site have been prevalent since the 1980s and consisted of contour mining, mountaintop removal mining, and underground mining. Mining activities were conducted under permits issued by the Kentucky Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement (KDMRE). As the prior site of major mining operations, the land surface in the Facility Area has been subject to significant past disturbance and approximately half of the site is partially reclaimed.