

EXHIBIT 3
DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
PATRICK BISCHOFF

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

THE APPLICATION OF EAST KENTUCKY POWER)	
COOPERATIVE, INC. FOR CERTIFICATES)	
OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY, AND SITE)	CASE NO.
COMPATABILITY CERTIFICATES, FOR THE)	2024-00129
CONSTRUCTION OF A 96 MW (NOMINAL) SOLAR)	
FACILITY IN MARION COUNTY AND A 40 MW)	
(NOMINAL) SOLAR FACILITY IN FAYETTE COUNTY)	
AND APPROVAL OF CERTAIN ASSUMPTION OF)	
EVIDENCES OF INDEBTEDNESS RELATED TO THE)	
SOLAR FACILITIES AND OTHER RELIEF)	

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF PATRICK BISCHOFF
MANAGER OF CONSTRUCTION AND CAPITAL PROJECTS
ON BEHALF OF EAST KENTUCKY POWER COOPERATIVE, INC.

Filed: April 26, 2024

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VERIFICATION OF PATRICK BISCHOFF

STATE OF KENTUCKY)
)
 COUNTY OF CLARK)

Patrick Bischoff, Manager of Construction and Capital Projects for East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Inc., being duly sworn, states that he has supervised the preparation of her Direct Testimony and certain filing requirements in the above referenced case and that the matters and things set forth therein are true and accurate to the best of his knowledge, information and belief, formed after reasonable inquiry.

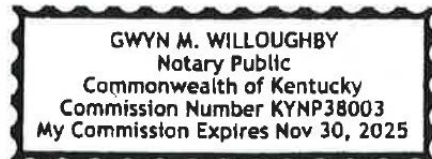
Patrick Bischoff

Patrick Bischoff

The foregoing Verification was signed, acknowledged and sworn to before me this 26th day of April 2024, by Patrick Bischoff.

Gwyn M. Willoughby

 Notary Public



1 **I. Introduction**

2 **Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, TITLE AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.**

3 A. My name is Patrick Bischoff. I am Manager of Construction and Capital Projects
4 for East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Inc. (“EKPC”). My business address is 4775
5 Lexington Road, Winchester, Kentucky 40391.

6 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE.**

7 A. I received a Bachelor’s degree in Civil Engineering from the University of
8 Kentucky. I am a licensed professional engineer in the Commonwealth of
9 Kentucky. I worked in engineering consulting from 2006 to 2013. I have been
10 employed at EKPC since 2013 and a member of the project management
11 department since 2019.

12 **Q. PLEASE BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR DUTIES AS MANAGER OF
13 CONSTRUCTION AND CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR EKPC.**

14 A. I am responsible for the management, training, and direction of a multi-discipline
15 group of engineers and other technical staff to develop, plan, and execute the power
16 delivery and production capital and major maintenance of each business unit’s
17 budget, short- and long-range capital and financial plans, and overall project
18 portfolio performance.

19 **Q. HAVE YOU TESTIFIED BEFORE THE KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE
20 COMMISSION BEFORE? IF SO, IN WHAT CASES?**

1 A. Yes, most recently in the EKPC application to amend its environmental compliance
2 plan and recover costs pursuant to its environmental surcharge, and for the issuance
3 of certificates of public convenience and necessity in Case No. 2023-00177.⁹

4 **Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY IN THIS**
5 **PROCEEDING?**

6 A. The purpose of my testimony is to discuss EKPC’s planning, scoping, and
7 preliminary engineering efforts to construct a ninety-six (96) MW solar facility in
8 Marion County, Kentucky (“Northern Bobwhite”) and a forty (40) MW solar
9 facility in Fayette County, Kentucky (“Bluegrass Plains”), collectively the
10 “Projects.” I will also discuss the scope, cost, and schedule of these projects.

11 **Q. ARE YOU SPONSORING ANY ATTACHMENTS TO YOUR**
12 **TESTIMONY?**

13 A. Yes. I am sponsoring the following Attachments, which I ask be incorporated into
14 my testimony by reference:

- 15 • Attachment PB-1, NRCO 2021 – Solar Proposal. This exhibit was prepared
16 by me, under my supervision, or at my request.
- 17 • Attachment PB-2, Northern Bobwhite Solar Site Assessment Report. This
18 exhibit was prepared by me, under my supervision, or at my request.
- 19 • Attachment PB-3, Bluegrass Plains Solar Site Assessment Report. This
20 exhibit was prepared by me, under my supervision, or at my request.

⁹ See *In the Matter of Application of East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Inc. for Approval to Amend Its Environmental Compliance Plan and Recover Costs Pursuant to Its Environmental Surcharge, and for the Issuance of Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity and Other Relief*, Order, Case No. 2023-00177, (Ky. P.S.C. Jan. 11, 2024).

1 **II. EKPC Self-Build Option**

2 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE PROPOSAL DEVELOPED FOR THE**
3 **RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ISSUED BY NRCO.**

4 A. A collaborative effort between EKPC Power Production and Engineering &
5 Construction was taken to develop a “self-build” proposal to respond to the RFP.
6 EKPC has a well-established track record for bringing self-build proposals to
7 successful and timely completion. As with prior self-build proposal situations, a
8 strict communication firewall was established at the onset of the response effort to
9 eliminate all communication between EKPC’s Power Supply business unit and the
10 EKPC team developing the proposal to ensure the integrity of the process. All
11 questions and requests for clarification were directed from the EKPC Self-Build
12 Team to NRCO, which was the same requirement for all other bidders. The team
13 developing the self-build proposal evaluated multiple solar projects that were held
14 by developers considering the following criteria:

- 15 - Projects that held positions within PJM’s generation interconnection queue;
- 16 - Projects located within the 89 counties EKPC serves;
- 17 - Projects with a point of interconnection on EKPC’s transmission system; and
- 18 - Interconnection and system upgrade costs.

19 The result of this evaluation process ultimately resulted in the recommendation and
20 proposal of two self-build solar projects: Northern Bobwhite and Bluegrass Plains.

21 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE HOW THE EKPC TEAM SUBMITTING THE**
22 **PROPOSAL FOR THE SELF-BUILD OPTION DETERMINED WHAT**
23 **PROPOSAL TO SUBMIT.**

1 A. The EKPC Self-Build Team (“Self-Build Team”) entered a collaborative effort to
2 respond to the NRCO Solar RFP in 2022. The Self-Build Team recognized that a
3 “self-build” option would present EKPC Owner-Members with a unique
4 opportunity to acquire, construct, and operate the most cost competitive solar
5 generation in EKPC’s system. The foundation of this opportunity is twofold:

- 6 - A self-build approach would eliminate profits to a developer associated with a
7 typical long-term power purchase agreement; and
- 8 - EKPC would pursue financial incentives for solar generation through the
9 Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and receive the benefit of all associated credits.

10 With these criteria in mind, the Self-Build Team developed a set of criteria
11 to identify projects that would meet the needs of EKPC and maintain the
12 opportunity to take advantage of the IRA credits. The first criteria addresses
13 EKPC’s status as a PJM member and required developing, constructing, and
14 interconnecting new generation assets within the PJM process. Candidate solar
15 projects considered would have to hold a position within PJM’s generation
16 interconnection queue. Within the process for PJM to study, develop, and approve
17 construction and interconnection of new generation assets within their system, there
18 are, at a high level, five phases: feasibility, impact, facilities, interconnection
19 service agreement, and construction service agreement. For this RFP, EKPC’s
20 Self-Build Team considered projects at any phase within the process, so long as
21 construction was not advanced far enough to limit applicability with the IRA credit
22 program. At the time of evaluation, there were approximately 115 projects in
23 PJM’s queue and new interconnection applications were estimated to take up to

1 four years before PJM would be able to take action. The second criteria was to
2 identify projects within the 89 counties EKPC serves. The location of a project is
3 critical to maintain cost effective operations and maintenance activities at the site.
4 EKPC will leverage existing resources to provide operations and maintenance for
5 these projects. The third criteria was to identify projects that utilized a point of
6 interconnection on EKPC's transmission system. Lastly, EKPC evaluated the
7 interconnection costs and system upgrades for projects that were advanced far
8 enough in the PJM queue process to have developed that information.

9 As the result of the application of these criteria to the projects within the
10 PJM interconnection queue, EKPC identified a host of projects across its service
11 territory. EKPC vetted each project and through this effort identified the Northern
12 Bobwhite project in Marion County, Kentucky and the Bluegrass Plains project in
13 Fayette County, Kentucky as the two mostly highly recommended projects to
14 respond to the NRCO RFP, as shown in Attachment PB-1.

15 **III. Northern Bobwhite Solar Project**

16 **Q. PLEASE GENERALLY DESCRIBE THE NORTHERN BOBWHITE**
17 **SOLAR PROJECT.**

18 A. The Northern Bobwhite Solar Project will consist of approximately 181,000 single
19 axis tracking photovoltaic (PV) modules, constructed over 635 acres located north
20 of Lebanon, Kentucky in Marion County. The total capacity of the project will be
21 96 MW AC. Each solar panel will be capable of producing approximately 685
22 Watts DC. The estimated construction cost of the project is \$233,640,000.

1 **Q. HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED IN THE PLANNING, SCOPING AND**
2 **ENGINEERING EFFORTS FOR THE NORTHERN BOBWHITE SOLAR**
3 **PROJECT FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE PROJECT?**

4 A. Yes.

5 **Q. PLEASE PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION FOR EACH ELEMENT OF THE**
6 **PROPOSED NORTHERN BOBWHITE SOLAR PROJECT.**

7 A. This project includes the site acquisition (utilizing long-term leases), design, and
8 construction of a 96 MW AC solar power generating facility. The leases are
9 structured for a base 240-month term with up to four additional consecutive terms
10 of five years each. The project scope includes the site development of 635 acres,
11 the installation of single axis tracking racking systems for the PV modules,
12 inverters, and approximately 181,000 PV modules. In addition, the project scope
13 will include the interconnection of the solar generation facility to EKPC's Marion
14 161kV Substation and any associated network upgrades.

15 Although EKPC has recently filed a notice of intent to file a CPCN
16 application related to transmission lines in Marion County, docketed as Case No.
17 2024-00108, tThese projects are not directly related to the Northern Bobwhite Solar
18 Project. The work contemplated in that case is needed to address transmission
19 reliability issues and forecasted overloads at the Lebanon distribution substation.
20 Further information will be provided with the Marion-Metts CPCN application
21 when it is filed.

1 **Q. WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COSTS FOR EACH**
2 **ELEMENT OF THE PROPOSED NORTHERN BOBWHITE SOLAR**
3 **PROJECT?**

4 A. The total estimated cost to construct the Northern Bobwhite Solar project is
5 \$233,640,000. The estimate is based off the assumption that an Engineering-
6 Procurement-Construction (“EPC”) contract will be utilized. The major elements
7 of the project have been estimated as follows:

8 - Major Equipment and Materials - \$133,363,440 (RUS Account 346000)

9 - Construction Labor - \$94,538,960 (RUS Account 341000)

10 - Owner’s Engineer - \$3,350,600 (RUS Account 345000)

11 - Owner’s Costs - \$750,000 (RUS Account 345000)

12 - Miscellaneous Contracts - \$1,662,000 (RUS Account 340000)

13 **Q. CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE INTERCONNECTION AND SYSTEM**
14 **UPDGRADE COSTS RELATED TO THE NORTHERN BOBWHITE**
15 **SOLAR PROJECT?**

16 A. Yes. As part of the PJM generation interconnection process, a series of studies are
17 conducted to provide developers and utilities information to evaluate business
18 opportunities for new generation construction. These studies include a Feasibility
19 Study, System Impact Study, and Facilities Study. These studies include costs
20 associated with interconnecting the new generation asset with a transmission
21 owner, and identifies any system upgrades required to maintain reliability of the
22 transmission grid and all impacted transmission owners.

1 The Norther Bobwhite Solar Project has completed all of these studies
2 associated with the PJM generation interconnection process and the interconnection
3 costs are detailed in the Interconnection Service Agreement with a total cost of
4 \$1,190,000. This includes direct labor, direct material, indirect labor, and indirect
5 material. The required transmission assets for the interconnection include:

- 6 - One (1) attachment line between the Marion County 161kV switching station and
7 the solar facility;
- 8 - One (1) 161kV circuit breaker and associated equipment located at the solar
9 facility;
- 10 - One (1) 34.5/161kV generator step-up transformer located at the solar facility
- 11 - Relay and protective equipment, supervisory control and data acquisition
12 (SCADA) equipment, and telecommunications equipment; and
- 13 - Necessary metering equipment.

14 No system upgrades were identified for the Northern Bobwhite project.

15 **Q. WILL THERE BE ANY ONGOING OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE**
16 **EXPENSE FOR THE NORTHERN BOBWHITE SOLAR PROJECT?**

17 A. Yes, the construction of the Northern Bobwhite Solar Project will result in
18 operations and maintenance (“O&M”) costs. In early economic analysis, EKPC
19 utilized standard O&M costs outlined by the U.S. Energy Information
20 Administration’s Cost and Performance Characteristics of New Generating
21 Technologies, Annual Energy Outlook 2022. This exhibit outlines a fixed O&M
22 rate of \$15.97 per kW-yr. EKPC plans on implementing a routine preventative
23 maintenance program that would include a host of bi-weekly, quarterly, semi-

1 annual, and annual inspections consistent with the existing program EKPC
2 conducts for the Cooperative Solar Farm One facility.

3 **Q. ARE THERE ANY PUBLIC UTILITIES, CORPORATIONS OR PERSONS**
4 **WITH WHOM THE NORTHERN BOBWHITE SOLAR PROJECT IS**
5 **LIKELY TO COMPETE?**

6 A. No. As detailed in Ms. Tucker’s testimony, the renewable energy and renewable
7 energy credits associated with this project will be for the benefit of EKPC’s owner-
8 members and their end-use members.

9 **Q. WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR CONSTRUCTION AND COMPLETION**
10 **OF THE NORTHERN BOBWHITE SOLAR PROJECT?**

11 A. This project is scheduled to commence construction in the first quarter of 2026 and
12 for completion in the second quarter of 2027.

13 **Q. WAS A SITE ASSESSMENT REPORT DEVELOPED FOR THE**
14 **NORTHERN BOBWHITE SOLAR PROJECT?**

15 A. Yes, the developer of the project, EDF Renewables, initially developed a Site
16 Assessment Report for the Northern Bobwhite solar project that was submitted with
17 its application for a Certificate of Construction. It is EKPC’s understanding that,
18 as noted below, this Site Assessment Report was generally acceptable to the
19 Kentucky State Board on Electric Generation and Transmission Siting.¹ EKPC
20 developed a revised Site Assessment Report for the Northern Bobwhite Solar

¹ *In the Matter of: Electronic Application of Northern Bobwhite Solar LLC for a Certificate of Construction for an Approximately 96 Megawatt Merchant Solar Electric Generating Facility in Marion County, Kentucky Pursuant to KRS 278.700 and 807 KAR 5:110, Case No. 2020-00208, Order, (Ky. Siting Board, Nov. 22, 2021).*

1 Project to reflect the scope of the project as outlined above. The Site Assessment
2 Report is attached to the Application at Exhibit PB-2.

3 **Q. WHAT IS THE INTENT OF THE SITE ASSESSMENT REPORT?**

4 A. The Northern Bobwhite Solar Project Site Assessment Report addresses the
5 proposed site development plan for the solar project, compatibility with scenic
6 surroundings, property value impacts, anticipated noise levels, effects on road and
7 railways, and discusses mitigation measures. This is consistent with KRS
8 278.708's requirements for merchant electric generating facilities. Several
9 associated plans and reports are contained in the appendix of the report. These
10 include a property value impact report, noise analysis report, traffic impact study,
11 glare analysis report, and Phase I Environmental Site Assessment.

12 **Q. WHAT WERE THE FINDINGS OF THE SITE ASSESSMENT REPORT**
13 **FOR THE NORTHERN BOBWHITE SOLAR PROJECT?**

14 A. The Site Assessment Report outlines the consistency of the Northern Bobwhite
15 Solar project with the elements outlined in KRS 278.708. The report details various
16 aspects of the project, including the proposed site development plan, compatibility
17 with scenic surroundings, property value impacts, anticipated noise levels, impact
18 on road and railways, and mitigation measures.

19 The proposed site development plan includes a comprehensive description
20 of the facility layout, surrounding land uses, legal boundaries, access control,
21 facility buildings, utilities, and noise evaluation. The plan details setbacks that will
22 be utilized and addresses noise concerns through detailed analysis. The project's
23 compatibility with scenic surroundings is evaluated, highlighting its passive nature

1 and minimal visual impact compared to alternative land uses. Measures such as
2 setbacks, vegetative screening, and visual buffering are proposed to mitigate any
3 potential visual impacts on neighboring properties and roadways. Property value
4 impacts are assessed through a comprehensive analysis conducted by Kirkland
5 Appraisals LLC, indicating no negative impact on adjoining properties. Similar
6 solar farms in comparable areas have been found to have no substantial effect on
7 property values.² Anticipated noise levels during both construction and operation
8 are evaluated, demonstrating minimal impact on nearby residences. Construction
9 activities are expected to operate within acceptable noise levels, and mitigation
10 measures are proposed to minimize potential disruptions. Finally, the project's
11 impact on road and rail traffic is analyzed, with findings suggesting no significant
12 adverse effects during construction or operation. Mitigation measures such as
13 ridesharing and traffic controls are proposed to minimize potential traffic delays.
14 Various mitigation measures are outlined to minimize adverse effects identified in
15 the assessment reports, including setbacks, vegetative screening, noise mitigation
16 measures, and compliance with environmental regulations.

17 In conclusion, EKPC believes the Northern Bobwhite Solar Project SAR
18 demonstrates compliance with regulatory requirements and incorporates reasonable
19 mitigation measures to minimize any potential adverse effects on surrounding
20 areas. Through comprehensive planning and adherence to environmental standards,
21 the project aims to contribute to sustainable energy generation while minimizing
22 impacts on the community and the environment.

² See Attachment PB-2, Section XIV, p. 111.

1 **IV. Bluegrass Plains Solar Project**

2 **Q. PLEASE GENERALLY DESCRIBE THE BLUEGRASS PLAINS SOLAR**
3 **PROJECT.**

4 A. The Bluegrass Plains Solar Project will consist of approximately 88,000 single axis
5 tracking PV modules, constructed over 388 acres located east of Lexington,
6 Kentucky in Fayette County between U.S. 60 and Interstate 64. The total capacity
7 of the project will be 40 MW AC. Each solar panel will be capable of producing
8 approximately 570 Watts DC. The estimated construction cost of the project is
9 \$101,744,634.

10 **Q. HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED IN THE PLANNING, SCOPING AND**
11 **ENGINEERING EFFORTS FOR THE BLUEGRASS PLAINS SOLAR**
12 **PROJECT FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE PROJECT?**

13 A. Yes.

14 **Q. PLEASE PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION FOR EACH ELEMENT OF THE**
15 **PROPOSED BLUEGRASS PLAINS SOLAR PROJECT.**

16 A. The Bluegrass Plains Solar Project scope includes the site development of 388
17 acres, the installation of single axis tracking racking systems for the PV modules,
18 inverters, and approximately 88,000 PV modules. In addition, the project scope
19 will include the interconnection of the solar generation facility to EKPC's Avon
20 Substation and any associated network upgrades.

21 **Q. WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COSTS FOR EACH**
22 **ELEMENT OF THE PROPOSED BLUEGRASS PLAINS SOLAR**
23 **PROJECT?**

1 A. The total estimated cost to construct the Bluegrass Plains Solar project is
2 \$101,744,634. The estimate is based off the assumption that an EPC contract will
3 be utilized. The major elements of the project have been estimated as follows:

4 - Major Equipment and Materials - \$48,740,992 (RUS Account 346000)

5 - Construction Labor - \$38,194,975 (RUS Account 341000)

6 - Owner's Engineer - \$627,550 (RUS Account 345000)

7 - Owner's Costs - \$4,250,225 (RUS Account 345000)

8 - Site Acquisition - \$9,960,930 (RUS Account 340000)

9 **Q. CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE INTERCONNECTION AND SYSTEM**
10 **UPGRADE COSTS RELATED TO THE BLUEGRASS PLAINS SOLAR**
11 **PROJECT?**

12 A. Yes. The Bluegrass Plains Solar project has completed Feasibility and Impact
13 Studies associated with the PJM generation interconnection process. The
14 Feasibility Study outlines a non-direct connection cost estimate of \$1,500,000 to
15 expand the existing 138kV bus at the Avon switching station and the installation of
16 new relays for the solar facility interconnection. Due to the current position of the
17 Bluegrass Plains Solar project in the PJM interconnection queue, the system
18 upgrades for the project are not finalized. The final cost allocations associated with
19 system upgrades will be provided in the System Impact Study.

20 **Q. WILL THERE BE ANY ONGOING O&M EXPENSE FOR THE**
21 **BLUEGRASS PLAINS SOLAR PROJECT?**

22 A. Yes, as with the Northern Bobwhite Solar Project, a fixed O&M rate of \$15.97 per
23 kW-yr is estimated. Again, EKPC plans on implementing a routine preventative

1 maintenance program that would include a host of bi-weekly, quarterly, semi-
2 annual, and annual inspections consistent with the existing program EKPC
3 conducts for the Cooperative Solar Farm One facility.

4 **Q. ARE THERE ANY PUBLIC UTILITIES, CORPORATIONS OR PERSONS**
5 **WITH WHOM THE BLUEGRASS PLAINS SOLAR PROJECT IS LIKELY**
6 **TO COMPETE?**

7 A. No. As detailed in Ms. Tucker's testimony, the renewable energy and renewable
8 energy credits associated with this project will be for the benefit of EKPC's owner-
9 members and their end-use members.

10 **Q. WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR CONSTRUCTION AND COMPLETION**
11 **OF THE BLUEGRASS PLAINS SOLAR PROJECT?**

12 A. This project is scheduled to commence construction fourth quarter of 2025 and for
13 completion in the second quarter of 2027.

14 **Q. WAS A SITE ASSESSMENT REPORT DEVELOPED FOR THE**
15 **BLUEGRASS PLAINS SOLAR PROJECT?**

16 A. Yes. The Bluegrass Plains Solar Project has not been previously reviewed by the
17 Kentucky State Board on Electric and Generation Transmission Siting. Thus,
18 EKPC engaged a third-party consultant, Tetra Tech, to develop a Site Assessment
19 Report for the Bluegrass Plains Solar project. The Site Assessment Report for the
20 Bluegrass Plains Project is attached to my testimony as Attachment PB-3.

21 **Q. WHAT IS THE INTENT OF THE SITE ASSESSMENT REPORT?**

22 A. The Bluegrass Plains Site Assessment Report addresses the proposed site
23 development plan for the solar project, compatibility with scenic surroundings,

1 property value impacts, anticipated noise levels, effects on road and railways, and
2 discusses mitigation measures. This is consistent with KRS 278.708's requirements
3 for merchant electric generating facilities. Several associated plans and reports are
4 contained in the appendix of the report. These include a preliminary site
5 development plan, property value impact study, site legal boundaries, acoustic
6 study, and traffic and dust study.

7 **Q. WHAT WERE THE FINDINGS OF THE SITE ASSESSMENT REPORT**
8 **FOR THE BLUEGRASS PLAINS SOLAR PROJECT?**

9 A. The Site Assessment Report outlines the consistency of the Bluegrass Plains Solar
10 project with the elements outlined in KRS 278.708. The report details various
11 aspects of the project, including the proposed site development plan, compatibility
12 with scenic surroundings, property value impacts, anticipated noise levels, impact
13 on road and railways, and mitigation measures.

14 The proposed project, situated on approximately 386 acres of agricultural
15 land, includes a comprehensive site plan detailing the layout of solar panels, access
16 roads, fencing, and other infrastructure components. Surrounding land use
17 primarily consists of a mix of agricultural and residential properties, with measures
18 in place to minimize visual and environmental impacts. Mitigation measures have
19 been identified throughout the project lifecycle, including during design,
20 construction, and operation phases. These measures aim to address concerns related
21 to noise, traffic, dust, and visual aesthetics, ensuring minimal disruption to
22 surrounding communities and the environment.

1 Furthermore, comprehensive studies, including a Property Value Impact
2 Study, Acoustic Study, Traffic Study, and Dust Study, have been conducted to
3 assess potential impacts and inform mitigation strategies. These studies concluded
4 that the Bluegrass Plains Solar Project is not expected to have significant adverse
5 effects on property values, noise levels, traffic patterns, or air quality in the
6 surrounding area.³ Overall, the Bluegrass Plains Solar Project represents a
7 significant step towards renewable energy generation in Kentucky, demonstrating
8 EKPC's commitment to sustainable development while adhering to regulatory
9 requirements and implementing effective mitigation measures to minimize
10 environmental and community impacts.

11 VI. Conclusion

12 Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR TESTIMONY.

13 A. The Northern Bobwhite and Bluegrass Plains Solar projects will provide EKPC
14 with 136 MW of needed renewable solar energy. These projects were responsive
15 to and selected out of the NRCO's competitively bid Solar RFP. The development
16 of these projects is also consistent with EKPC's most recent IRP. The proposed
17 projects present the most reasonable, least cost renewable solar energy options as
18 requested by the RFP and will not result in wasteful duplication of investment.

19 Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?

20 A. Yes.

³ See Exhibit PB-3, Sections 2-7, pp. 2-10.