## COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY BEFORE THE KENTUCKY STATE BOARD ON ELECTRIC GENERATION AND TRANSMISSION SITING

T	41	TA /	atter	ac.
111	me	IVI	lauer	OI

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION OF WOOD	)	
DUCK SOLAR LLC FOR A CERTIFICATE OF	)	
OF CONSTRUCTION FOR AN APPROXIMATELY	)	
100 MEGAWATT MERCHANT ELECTRIC	)	
SOLAR GENERATING FACILITY AND	)	Case No. 2024-00337
NONREGULATED ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION	)	
LINE IN BARREN COUNTY, KENTUCKY	)	
PURSUANT TO KRS 278.700 AND 807 KAR	)	
5:110.	)	

#### **POST-HEARING BRIEF**

Wood Duck Solar LLC ("Applicant" or "Wood Duck") files this post-hearing brief in support of its position following the hearing, pursuant to 807 KAR 5:110, Section 7 and the Kentucky State Board on Electric Generation and Transmission Siting ("Siting Board" or Board")'s October 6, 2025 Order. Specifically, this brief will discuss Applicant's compliance with KRS 278.710 criteria for approval and will address certain issues raised by the Siting Board during the October 2, 2025 evidentiary hearing ("Hearing"). In support of its position, Applicant states as follows.

#### I. Facts

Applicant is seeking approval from the Siting Board for a certificate of construction for an approximately 100-megawatt (MW) merchant electric solar generating facility and nonregulated electric transmission line pursuant to KRS 278.704 and 278.714 (the "Project"). The Project will be located in Barren County, Kentucky. Applicant filed its application on May 19, 2025, and the application was accepted as administratively complete. The application included a site assessment report and other studies which addressed the criteria listed in KRS 278.706-.708.

On April 15, 2025, representatives from the Mammoth Cave National Park Service ("NPS") submitted a letter as a public comment to the Siting Board which noted concerns on impacts of the Project to the cave system, including impacts to endangered species. As a result of this letter, Project representatives met with NPS to discuss any concerns and answer remaining questions about the Project. NPS representatives indicated that the public comment to the Board would be updated to reflect the positive outcome of this meeting, but to date, this has not been done.<sup>1</sup>

During the Hearing, the Siting Board sought clarity on the Applicant's discussions with the NPS concerning the Project's potential impacts to area water resources and animal habitats. Specifically, Deputy Secretary for the Energy and Environment Cabinet, John Lyons, expressed hesitation regarding his willingness to approve the Project without confirmation from the NPS that the Project's proposed mitigation measures will protect Mammoth Cave.<sup>2</sup>

The Applicant acknowledges the Deputy Secretary's objective of protecting the Commonwealth's natural resources. However, requiring approval from the NPS before granting a construction certificate is outside the authority granted to the Board by the Kentucky Legislature, sets a troubling precedent for future development in the Commonwealth, and directly conflicts with Commonwealth policy regarding these projects. Additionally, the federal government is currently shut down, meaning approval from the NPS is effectively impossible as of the date this brief is being filed. Given the tremendous thought, resources, and effort the Applicant has invested into designing a project that achieves the Commonwealth's goal of "all of the above" energy generation while protecting Kentucky's natural resources, the application should be approved without need for concurrence or approval from the NPS.

-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See Response No. 42 to Siting Board Staff's First Request for Information.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See Evidentiary Hearing at 3:32:15-3:32:55.

#### II. Legal Standard

Within one hundred eighty days of receipt of an application and upon evaluation of the record, including an evidentiary hearing, the Siting Board shall grant or deny a construction certificate based upon the criteria contained in KRS 278.710(1). These criteria include impact of the facility on scenic surroundings, property values, development of adjacent property, and surrounding roads; anticipated noise levels related to construction and operation of the facility; and efficacy of any proposed measures to mitigate adverse impacts related to the above. KRS 278.710(1)(a-b), 1(h). The Board may also consider whether the applicant has good environmental compliance history. KRS 278.710(1)(i). Notably, these criteria do not include federal approval prior to granting a construction certificate.

#### III. Argument

The Applicant has satisfied the criteria for a construction certificate pursuant to KRS 278.710. The Siting Board's third-party consultant, Harvey Economics ("HE"), found that the Project's site is compatible with the existing scenic surroundings, especially once proposed setbacks and screening are implemented. *See* Review and Evaluation of Wood Duck Solar LLC Site Assessment Report (hereinafter "HE Report") at Section 2, pp. 2-1 through 2-4. Further, HE stated that the facility is unlikely to have measurable negative impacts on most adjacent property values once mitigation strategies are adopted. HE concluded that the Siting Board should approve the application based upon its review, subject to certain mitigation measures (none of which mentioned prior approvals by NPS). HE Report Section 2, p. 2-8. The Project therefore satisfies all criteria contained in KRS 278.710 for approval of its application for a construction certificate.

#### a. The Board's Approval Authority

The Siting Board is a state agency and is governed according to the provisions of KRS 278.700 to KRS 278.718. KRS 278.710(1) provides the timing of the Board's decision on an administratively complete application and criteria the Board must consider in making that decision. As discussed above, these criteria include, among other things: impact of the facility on scenic surroundings, property values, and roads; anticipated construction and operational noise; economic impacts; impacts to the electricity transmission system; compliance with setbacks; efficacy of mitigation measures; decommissioning requirements; and whether the applicant has a good environmental compliance history.<sup>3</sup>

The language of KRS 278.710(1) is prescriptive and directs the Siting Board to decide an application within a given timeframe and based on specified criteria. No provision of KRS 278.710(1) requires the Board to obtain NPS's concurrence or permit the Board to consider the NPS in its decision on an application. Thus, because the scope of the Board's decision-making criteria is determined by KRS 278.710, consideration of the NPS in deciding this case would render the Board's decision beyond its statutorily authorized scope.

#### b. NPS Approval is not Necessary and Requiring Such Would Set a Troubling Precedent for Future Development in the Commonwealth

The Applicant has undertaken comprehensive measures to minimize environmental impacts associated with the Project through planned design and mitigation. The Project will not include a battery energy storage system, which was an identified concern of NPS in its 4/15/25 public comment letter.<sup>4</sup> During construction, the Project will utilize the existing landscape where possible to minimize clearing and grading.<sup>5</sup> Where grading is unavoidable, it will be completed

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See generally, KRS 278.710(1).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> See Response Nos. 42-44 to Siting Board Staff's First Request for Information.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Application, para. 8.

with earthmoving machinery and construction will make every effort to match existing slopes.<sup>6</sup> The Project will avoid construction in areas where karst terrain is discovered and implement 25-foot setbacks from all karst features encountered.<sup>7</sup> Riparian native filter buffers will remain in place for all streams and identified karst features.<sup>8</sup> The Project will not prevent hydrological drainage from nearby water resources into the Mammoth Cave system but will protect those resources through appropriate stormwater permitting and implementation of BMPs to avoid impacts to the Kentucky Cave Shrimp.<sup>9</sup> The Applicant will also obtain appropriate determinations and permitting from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers if the Project were to potentially impact wetlands and streams.<sup>10</sup>

The Applicant will conduct tree clearing outside of summertime roosting season for endangered bat species and participate in the Imperiled Bat Conservation Fund (ICBF) program.<sup>11</sup> After construction, the Project will revegetate disturbed areas with native grass seed and pollinator species to prevent or decrease sheet flow and sediment runoff.<sup>12</sup> During operations, vegetation management would primarily occur using mechanical means with limited herbicide application by a licensed applicator for weed control over the Project's first five years and, after year five, vegetation management would occur exclusively by mechanical means with spot spraying problem areas with bio-friendly herbicide as needed.<sup>13</sup> No pesticide or fertilizers are planned for use during

<sup>-</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Response No. 40 to Siting Board Staff's First Request for Information, Cumulative Environmental Assessment, Section 3.1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Response Nos. 40 and 42 to Siting Board Staff's First Request for Information.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Response No. 42 to Siting Board Staff's First Request for Information.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> See Response Nos. 40, 42-44, and 107 to Siting Board Staff's First Request for Information; see also, Evidentiary Hearing at approx. 4:24:33.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Response Nos. 40 and 42 to Siting Board Staff's First Request for Information.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> See Response No. 43 to Siting Board Staff's First Request for Information; see also, Response No. 8 to Siting Board Staff's Second Request for Information; see also, Evidentiary Hearing at approx. 3:25:20.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Response No.42 to Siting Board Staff's First Request for Information.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> *Id*.

operation<sup>14</sup> and the Applicant will employ BMPs for minimizing potential spills and/or leaks from any chemicals stored onsite.<sup>15</sup>

The Applicant has made substantial efforts to communicate its proposed construction and mitigation measures to NPS staff including email correspondence and traveling to Mammoth Cave to meet with park representatives, as demonstrated in Response No. 42 to Siting Board Staff's First Request for Information. Despite an offer from NPS during the meeting to update their comment to the Board, NPS has neither responded to Applicant's multiple attempts to communicate with NPS nor provided an updated comment. The Applicant can neither force NPS to respond to its email nor update its April 15, 2025 letter, and NPS is not a party to this proceeding. Even if the Board were to request (or require) NPS to provide a response to the Board's questions regarding potential impacts to the park, NPS is not governed by the Board or the Commonwealth of Kentucky and can therefore simply ignore both the Applicant and the Board.

As demonstrated above, the Applicant has thoughtfully designed the Project to protect Kentucky's natural resources and has endeavored to address NPS's concerns regarding potential impacts to Mammoth Cave with respect to the Project. Further complicating communications with the NPS is the ongoing federal government shutdown, which went into effect on October 1, 2025. Because there is no guarantee that the federal government would reopen prior to the Board's statutory decision deadline and NPS is not required to respond to the Applicant's communications or requests for information even if the federal government was open, NPS's concurrence should not be a condition precedent to granting Applicant a construction certificate.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Response No.43 to Siting Board Staff's First Request for Information.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Response No. 40 to Siting Board Staff's First Request for Information, Cumulative Environmental Assessment, Section 3.2.

#### c. Policy of Commonwealth of Kentucky

The Department of Interior released a memorandum on July 15, 2025 that details changes to departmental review procedures and decisions specific to wind and solar facilities (the "DOI Memo"). The DOI Memo, attached hereto as Exhibit A, requires submittal of, among other things, biological assessments and opinions, Endangered Species Act permits, cultural resource consultations, "and any other similar or related decisions, actions, consultation, or undertakings" to the Office of the Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs, with subsequent review by the Office of the Deputy Secretary, and final review by the Office of the Secretary. These policies specifically target and stifle solar development in contravention of Kentucky's own energy policy, KYE³, which takes an all-of-the-above approach to energy development and resilience in the Commonwealth. The KYE³ policy document is attached hereto as Exhibit B. If the Board requires concurrence from a DOI agency on this pending application, the Siting Board will be effectively deferring its authority to rule on the application to the federal government, which conflicts KRS 278.710(1).

#### IV. Conclusion

In conclusion, the Applicant has satisfied the criteria for a construction certificate pursuant to KRS 278.710. The Board's third-party consultant has also recommended approval of the certificate. The Applicant has taken significant steps to minimize environmental impacts, including those to Mammoth Cave's water resources, the endangered Kentucky Cave Shrimp, and threatened bat species, and has communicated these efforts to the NPS. Despite no response from NPS since July 23, 2025, the Applicant's project design avoids sensitive features where feasible and includes mitigation measures where avoidance is not possible. Importantly, NPS concurrence is not required under KRS 278.710(1), and making it a condition would improperly shift decision-

making authority from the Siting Board to a federal agency, contrary to Kentucky's energy policy. The Applicant respectfully urges the Siting Board not to make communication or concurrence from the NPS a condition or requirement for approval of the Project, and instead grant the construction certificate within the allowed statutory timeframe.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Pierce T. Stevenson

Gregory T. Dutton

Kathryn A. Eckert

Pierce T. Stevenson

FROST BROWN TODD LLP

400 W. Market Street, 32nd Floor

Louisville, KY 40202

(502) 589-5400

(502) 581-1087 (fax)

gdutton@fbtlaw.com

keckert@fbtlaw.com

pstevenson@fbtlaw.com

Counsel for Wood Duck Solar LLC

# **EXHIBIT A**



#### United States Department of the Interior

#### OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY Washington, DC 20240

#### JULY 15 2025

#### Memorandum

To: Assistant Secretaries

Bureau and Office Heads

From: Deputy Chief of Staff – Policy

GREGORY WISCHER Digitally signed by GREGORY WISCHER Date: 2025.07.15 10:58:31 -04'00'

Subject: Departmental Review Procedures for Decisions, Actions, Consultations, and

Other Undertakings Related to Wind and Solar Energy Facilities

Consistent with Executive Order (EO) 14315, entitled "Ending Market Distorting Subsidies for Unreliable, Foreign-Controlled Energy Sources," EO 14156, entitled "Declaring a National Energy Emergency," Presidential Memorandum, entitled "Temporary Withdrawal of All Areas on the Outer Continental Shelf from Offshore Wind Leasing and Review of the Federal Government's Leasing and Permitting Practices for Wind Projects," Secretary's Order (SO) 3417, entitled "Addressing the National Energy Emergency," and SO 3418, entitled "Unleashing American Energy," all decisions, actions, consultations, and other undertakings—including but not limited to the following—related to wind and solar energy facilities shall require submission to the Office of the Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs, subsequent review by the Office of the Deputy Secretary, and final review by the Office of the Secretary:

- 1. Federal Register notices;
- 2. notices to proceed;
- scoping reports;
- 4. determinations of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) adequacy;
- 5. draft and final environmental assessments;
- 6. draft, final, and supplemental environmental impact statements;
- 7. findings of no significant impact;
- 8. records of decision;
- 9. approval letters;
- 10. plans of development;
- 11. land use plan amendments and revisions;
- 12. land withdrawals and revocations;
- 13. areas of critical environmental concern designations;
- 14. site testing and monitoring authorizations;

- 15. proposed and final sale notices;
- 16. lease sales;
- 17. lease assignments;
- 18. lease issuances;
- 19. proofs of construction;
- 20. site assessment plans;
- 21. preconstruction environmental surveys;
- 22. supplemental environmental reports;
- 23. temporary use permits;
- 24. access road authorizations;
- 25. utility corridor concurrences;
- 26. facility design reports;
- 27. fabrication and installation reports;
- 28. certified verification agent approvals;
- 29. construction and operation plans (COPs);
- 30. conditions of COP approvals;
- 31. COP revisions;
- 32. Engineering and Technical Review Branch recommendation memos;
- 33. proposed technical and navigational and aviation safety conditions;
- 34. cable burial risk assessments;
- 35. oil spill response plans;
- 36. decommissioning applications;
- 37. Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act compliance memos;
- 38. compendium reports;
- 39. memoranda of agreement;
- 40. compensatory mitigation plans;
- 41. historic properties management plans;
- 42. historic properties treatment plans;
- 43. performance and reclamation bonding approvals;
- 44. rental and royalty determinations;
- 45. cost recovery agreements;
- 46. financial assurances;
- 47. rights-of-use and easement;
- 48. right-of-way (ROW) applications;

- 49. ROW grants;
- 50. ROW leases;
- 51. ROW transfers;
- 52. leases and ROWs on Tribal lands;
- 53. Tribal environmental impact reviews;
- 54. government-to-government Tribal consultations;
- 55. Wild and Scenic Rivers Act determinations;
- 56. National Trails System impact evaluations;
- 57. National Landscape Conservation System coordination;
- 58. visual impact assessments;
- 59. visual resource management analyses;
- 60. cumulative historic resources visual effects analyses;
- 61. cultural resource consultations;
- 62. section 106 compliance under the National Historic Preservation Act;
- 63. consultation under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Endangered Species Act (ESA), Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA);
- 64. permits under the ESA, MBTA, and BGEPA;
- 65. biological assessments;
- 66. biological opinions;
- 67. approval and publication of studies and assessments, including ecological baseline studies;
- 68. grants; and
- 69. any other similar or related decisions, actions, consultations, or undertakings.

These review procedures are effectively immediately.

Cc: Deputy Assistant Secretaries
Bureau and Office Deputy Heads
Assistant Secretary Chiefs of Staff
Bureau and Office Chiefs of Staff

# EXHIBIT B

# KYE<sup>3</sup>: Designs for a Resilient Economy

KYE<sup>3</sup>: Energy, Environment & Economic Development



An economy built on our past, answering the needs of today, and equipping us for tomorrow's opportunities.

2021

#### Message from Governor Andy Beshear

The COVID-19 pandemic has altered how every Kentuckian lives, works and plays, from how we shop, to our children's activities, and to how we communicate. Our homes have been transformed to work and learning spaces and terms like personal protection equipment have been normalized into our everyday language. We've faced tremendous challenges, grieved for the loss of our fellow Kentuckians, and endured. We've seen that we are a resilient Kentucky, able to face adversity head on, adapt, and recover for a Better Kentucky.

In the pages ahead, you will explore how Kentucky's energy strategy builds on this concept of resilience. Our energy strategy is one where energy and environment meets economic development. It's no surprise that Kentucky's energy and economic development landscape is changing. Our world is changing. From our infrastructure's increasing threats from natural, man-made and cybersecurity events, to a changing corporate business culture, and international and national market fluctuations, these changes offer us innovative emerging industry opportunities where our history, infrastructure and culture enable us to step boldly into the future and lead the nation.

We present a strategy that is flexible and stakeholder driven. It is an overarching long-term strategy for a resilient economy, built by partnerships and made actionable by the commitment of those willing to do the work. No one person or entity is responsible for its success but everyone is responsible for being aware and engaging in robust discussion.

Diversity is important. From supporting a diverse energy portfolio to including diverse perspectives in our discussion, diversity is the heart of our resilience. Equally important is sustainability which allows us to meet the needs of the present without compromising our future and that of our children. And yet we must do all of this while balancing the affordability and reliability of our energy systems.

As you read the following pages, keep in mind that it all begins with finding what resonates with you and your community. We can't do all of it at once but we all can find a part and work together to find new solutions and opportunities. We encourage you to reach out and come meet with us, bring us your ideas, your partnerships, and your commitment to build a Better Kentucky.

Sincerely,

Chily Berl

#### Why E<sup>3</sup>?

Kentucky's **energy infrastructure** is essential for the well-being of all Kentuckians. It connects all aspects of our society and provides an essential link for the national and global economies.

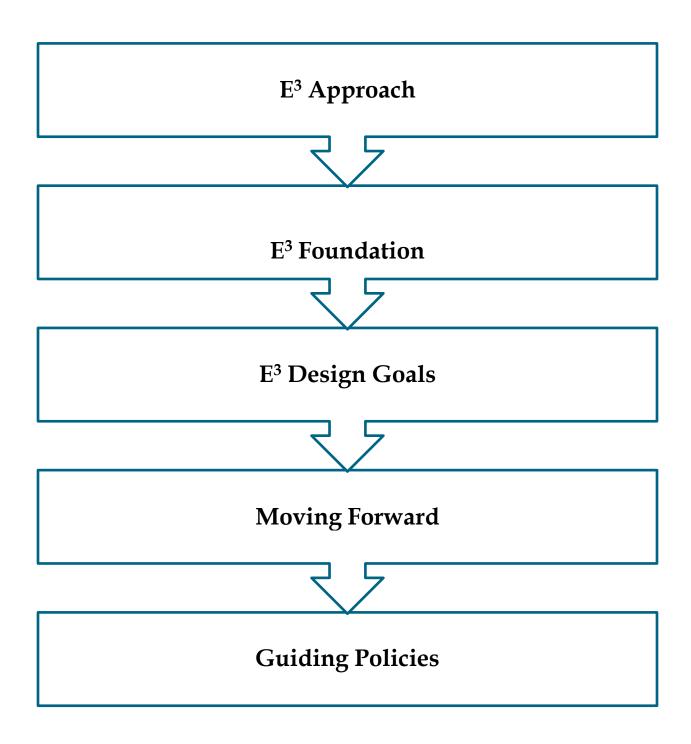
Our environment has long shaped Kentucky's culture and economy. Both new and existing businesses are demanding a sustainable business ecosystem to operate.

Sustainable economic development builds on Kentucky's unique resources and assets to bring longlasting benefits for all Kentuckians to enjoy. It allows us to meet the needs of the present without compromising our future. Working together to build a better Kentucky!



Workforce development includes educating and training Kentuckians to meet current and future business and industry needs in order to maintain a sustainable competitive economic environment.

#### What's Inside?



#### E<sup>3</sup> Approach

The design for a resilient economy that benefits all Kentuckians incorporates four key principles.

**Fair.** Actions marked by impartiality and honesty.

**Robust.** Ideas that are strongly formed and capable of performing under a wide range of conditions.

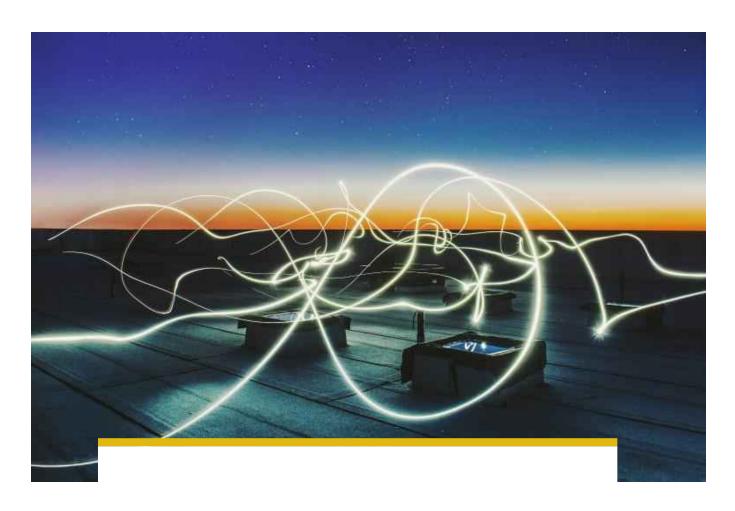
**Balanced.** Opportunities that consider contrasting and interacting elements.

#### Collaborative Engagement.

Designed with all Kentuckians in mind. The benefits of our approach can only be realized by listening to all voices across the Commonwealth and engaging in partnerships that build actions to create success across our energy, environment and economic development landscape.

An economy where every Kentuckian and community can reach their highest potential.





The E<sup>3</sup> Foundation

#### **Energy**



13,000 miles of electricity transmission lines



6,769 miles of natural gas transmission



18,834 miles of distribution pipelines



Over 800 miles of crude and petroleum product pipelines

72% of the gas transmission and 24% of the distribution systems were constructed before 1970.



Kentucky ranks 28<sup>th</sup> in gross domestic product, with total energy expenditures per capita equaling \$4,255

- 42,797 energy sector jobs.
- 57 power plants using fossil and renewable resources.
- Two wholesale energy markets.
- Ninth-lowest average electricity retail price of any state.
- Home to one major oil refinery and several terminals.

#### **Environment**











Appalachian Mountains



Kentucky Bourbon Trail



Mammoth Cave



Land Between the Lakes



Kentucky Horse Farms and Racing



Red River Gorge



#### **Economic Development**

60% of Fortune 500 companies have set goals to address energy usage.

90% of S&P 500 Index follow sustainability reporting standards.

64.5 % of Kentucky's energy consumption comes from industrial and transportation sectors.

Automotive industries operating in Kentucky commit to an electric vehicle future.

Total Ky investment and jobs by target industry for announced projects (2019 – YTD 2021)

Industry	Investment	Jobs
Automotive- related	\$1.60 billion	3,235
Distribution & Logistics	\$627 million	3,099
Food & Beverage	\$1.62 billion	2,811
Metals	\$2.68 billion	2,660
Aerospace	\$913 million	1,945
Healthcare	\$141 million	1,561
Plastics & Rubber	\$448 million	900
Chemicals	\$332 million	632
Agritech	\$197.6 million	575
Spirits (Sub- category of Food & Beverage)	\$718 million	548

What Companies Want

Waste management options and recycling,

Access to potable water and supply,
Alternative energy access and onsite
options,

Assistance with sustainability goals,
Competitive energy prices,
Workforce training,
Research and development,
Commercialization opportunities

Current as of July 2021

#### E<sup>3</sup> Design Goals



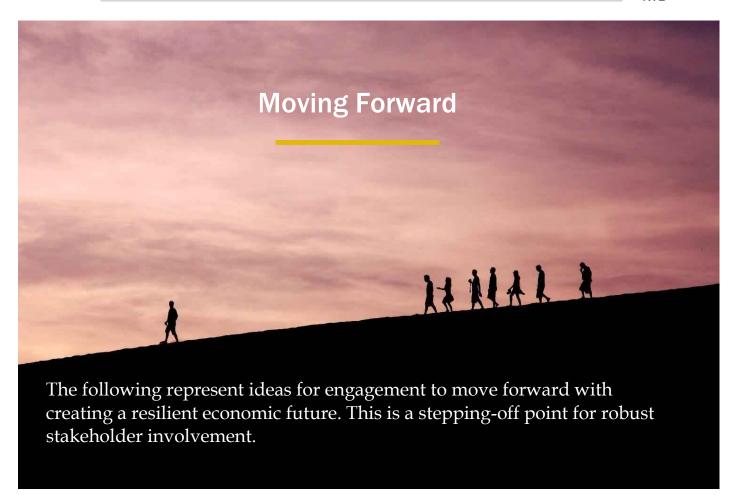








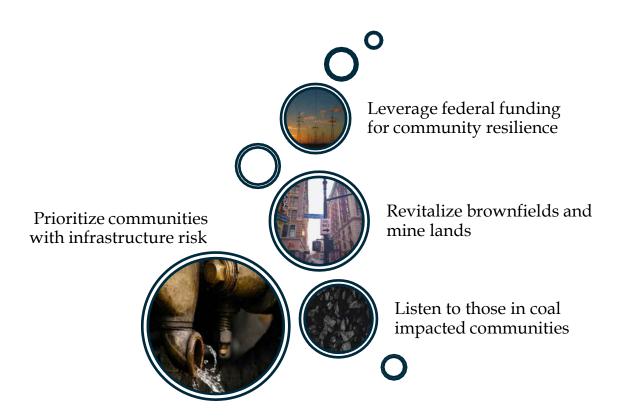
A resilient economy is one that has the capacity to anticipate change, adapt quickly, and rapidly recover to previous levels of economic growth or better.



"THE SECRET TO GETTING AHEAD IS GETTING STARTED!"

Mark Twain

#### E<sup>3</sup> Starts with Communities





#### **Manufacturing a Resilient Economy**

Work with existing manufacturers to meet new energy supply chain needs Incentivize sustainable business investments including hydrogen and other renewable fuels

Commercialize critical mineral recovery operations

Attract coal-toadvanced carbon product opportunities Recruit R&D and industry innovation facilities

Develop carbon capture utilization and sequestration (CCUS) industries

Increase big data processing capabilities

Manufacture the software and equipment that support a smart, secure infrastructure

Incentivize advanced manufacturing opportunities in key sectors like electric vehicles

#### **Fueling a Diverse Energy Economy**



Create alternative fuel transportation corridors



Grow renewable gas and liquid fuels such as sustainable aviation fuels



Engage in regional and international partnerships



Establish Kentucky as a hydrogen hub for production, transportation, exports, and industrial use

#### **Building the Next Generation Infrastructure**

Support alternative fuel transportation infrastructure

Encourage resilient,gridconnected buildings

Accommodate renewable products, hydrogen, and carbon dioxide

Grow the infrastructure to capture, transport, and utilize methane

Plan for an electric transmission grid that supports growing renewable resources Create an electric distribution grid that is self-healing, selfsufficient, and autosensing

Ensure a physical and cyber-secure infrastructure

Support a diversified energy supply that is fuel secure, sustainable, and resilient

#### **Developing a Sustainable Workforce**



Conduct a comprehensive E3 workforce assessment



Develop pre-K through post-graduate pathways for a sustainable workforce



Engage in regional sustainable business collaborations



Provide rapid apprenticeships and certifications for a skilled workforce

#### **Leading By Example**

Improve state government sustainability practices Expand resilient funding options Increase the use of low or zero emission fleets that are fuel diverse Ensure that resilience and sustainable economic development projects are eligible for our funding programs Review regulations and codes for resilience and sustainability criteria Improve access to data and transparency



## Energy

Acknowledges the health and wellbeing of the Commonwealth is dependent upon citizens who are energy literate and an energy infrastructure that is safe, resilient, reliable, sustainable and affordable.

Addresses our energy sector in a holistic and integrated manner and promotes the utilization of all of Kentucky's energy resources, including energy efficiency and conservation. It recognizes that economic prosperity is linked to the availability, reliability, sustainability and affordability of consumer energy supplies, and supports the commercialization of innovative energy technologies.

Increases the resilience of the Commonwealth though our local communities' and energy sector's ability to anticipate, prepare, mitigate, respond, and recover quickly from threats or disruptions to our energy infrastructure.

Acknowledges that economic and national security is dependent on secure energy resources, recognizing that domestic production of energy resources and technologies along with fuel diversity enhance economic stability.

Ensures that Kentucky's regulatory oversight provides safe, reliable and adequate energy services at reasonable prices, yet provides for the financial stability of and supports the operational competence of energy providers.

In Kentucky, we seek to utilize all of our energy resources for the benefit of the Commonwealth while protecting and improving our environment.

We endeavor to fulfill the duties vested in us by law under KRS 152.712 and KRS 278 and 279.

#### Environment

Acknowledges that Kentucky's remarkable natural resources have helped shape our economy, culture and history and that these resources provide us with the responsibility of good stewardship.

Ensures that Kentucky's environmental oversight and regulatory implementation is efficient, transparent, and consistent, recognizing that regulatory certainty is a key component of economic growth.

Addresses our environment in a sustainable, coordinated and collaborative manner that encourages development, providing for the best usage of land areas, maximizing environmental benefits, and minimizing the effects of less desirable environmental conditions.

Acknowledges that our environment is essential to economic development, is the foundation for the Commonwealth's tourism industry, key industries depend on our natural resources, and that these resources impact the quality of life of all citizens.

Increases the environmental literacy of the Commonwealth though experiential learning, improved access to the natural environment, and protection and conservation of our most precious natural resources.

In Kentucky, we seek to provide regulatory guidance and environmental awareness that will bring economic benefits to the Commonwealth while protecting and enhancing the environment and improving the quality of life for Kentucky businesses, workers and the public in general.

We endeavor to fulfill the power and duties vested in us by law under KRS 224.10-100.

### Economic Development

Achieves the best quality of life for all Kentuckians through long-term strategic planning and implementation that fosters sustainable growth in jobs and incomes and enables communities, businesses, governments, and individuals to compete in the global marketplace.

Partners with government, business, education, communities, and individuals to provide a coordinated planning and implementation process which prioritizes action and accountability, supports rural and urban communities to invest in their own futures, assists businesses to acquire the resources to compete, and prepares individuals for work in high quality jobs.

Equips people and institutions with the capacity to adapt to future change; creates a skilled, competitive workforce and thriving, resilient and healthy communities throughout the state; and increases access to high-quality jobs.

Acknowledges that our environment and energy infrastructure is essential to a thriving economy and the well-being of our communities; recognizing that sustainable economic development builds on Kentucky's unique resources and assets, and allows us to meet the needs of the present without compromising our future.

In Kentucky, we strive to foster job creation and retention, and business investment in Kentucky by working to attract new industries and helping existing companies grow and expand for the benefit of all Kentuckians.

We endeavor to fulfill the power and duties vested in us by law under KRS 154.

#### **Contact Information**

At the Kentucky Office of Energy Policy (OEP) we believe in our mission to utilize all of Kentucky's energy resources for the betterment of the Commonwealth while protecting and improving our environment. We hope to better understand and communicate how rapid changes, occurring in the energy sector, put pressure on existing energy systems, but also present new opportunities for energy users and producers.

The OEP is tasked with overseeing the implementation of Kentucky's comprehensive energy strategy. As such, we depend on your feedback and partnership. The office will be visiting communities to discuss KYE<sup>3</sup>. If you'd like to talk with us or would like us to visit your community, please use the contact information below. Check back periodically at the KYE<sup>3</sup> webpage for a more detailed feedback form and a list of updates, news, and locations of events.

Please contact us at <a href="mailto:energy@ky.gov">energy@ky.gov</a> or visit our webpage for more information on our programs and data products at <a href="https://eec.ky.gov/Energy/Pages/default.aspx">https://eec.ky.gov/Energy/Pages/default.aspx</a>

To sign up for our monthly newsletter, please visit fill out the form <u>here</u>.