

**Review and Evaluation of
Lynn Bark Energy Center, LLC
Transmission Application
Case Number: 2026-00096**

REPORT

Report

September 9, 2026

**Review and Evaluation of
Lynn Bark Energy Center, LLC
Transmission Application
Case Number: 2026-00096**

Prepared for

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SECTION A.

General Statement

SECTION A.

General Statement

This document provides BBC Research & Consulting's review of Lynn Bark Energy Center, LLC's Application for a Construction Certificate for an up to 6.3-mile non-regulated transmission line in Martin County, Kentucky.

Transmission Application Review Context

Lynn Bark Energy Center, LLC submitted an administratively complete document titled "Transmission Line Application" (hereafter referred to as the "Transmission Application") to the Kentucky State Board on Electric Generation and Transmission Siting (the Siting Board) on June 16, 2026. The Siting Board assigned case number 2026-00096 to the Lynn Bark Energy Center Transmission Application. The proposed non-regulated merchant transmission line is subject to review by the Siting Board under KRS 278.700 *et seq.* (the Act), passed by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky in 2002.

More specifically, KRS 278.714 provides guidance for the Siting Board in making decisions regarding approval of proposed non-regulated transmission lines. In article 3 of KRS 278.714, the statute includes the following provisions:

- "Action to grant the certificate shall be based on the board's determination that the proposed route of the line will minimize significant adverse impact on the scenic assets of Kentucky and that the applicant will construct and maintain the line according to all applicable legal requirements."
- "In addition, the board may consider the interstate benefits expected to be achieved by the proposed construction or modification of the electric transmission facilities in the Commonwealth."
- "If the board determines that locating the transmission line will result in significant degradation of scenic factors or if the board determines that the construction and maintenance of the line will be in violation of applicable legal requirements, the board may deny the application or condition the application's approval upon relocation of the route of the line, or changes in design or configuration of the line."

Siting Board staff retained BBC Research & Consulting (BBC) to perform this review. BBC previously conducted the site assessment review of the proposed Lynn Bark Energy Center solar generating facility on behalf of the Siting Board under case number 2024-00104. In addition to our prior examinations of proposed non-regulated transmission lines as components of the Lynn Bark Energy Center and other proposed solar generating facilities in Kentucky, BBC also previously conducted an in-depth review of the proposed Vectren 345 kV interstate merchant transmission line for the Siting Board in 2010. The Vectren transmission line was not associated with any specific solar generating facilities.

Transmission Application Review Methodology

BBC undertook the following tasks to review Lynn Bark Energy Center's Transmission Application and complete this report:

- Reviewed our previous site assessment review for the Lynn Bark Energy solar generating facility;
- Reviewed prior non-regulated transmission line reviews prepared for the Siting Board by BBC and others;
- Reviewed the contents of Lynn Bark Energy Center's Transmission Application;
- Identified additional information we considered useful for a thorough review, and submitted questions to the applicant through the Siting Board Staff's requests for information;
- Conducted the required site visit, including obtaining oral information supplied by the applicant, in August 2024;
- Completed data collection from other sources as sourced in this document; and
- Compiled and incorporated all of the foregoing in the analysis.

Report Format

This report is structured to be responsive to KRS 278 and BBC's contract. It begins with this general statement that introduces the review. In Section B of the report, we present the executive summary and list all of the mitigation measures recommended by BBC. Section C offers detailed findings and conclusions of the study and provides context for BBC's recommended mitigation measures.

Certain Limitations

There are inherent limitations to any review process of documents such as Lynn Bark Energy Center's Transmission Application. These must be understood in utilizing this report for decision-making purposes.

Based on previous experience with the solar site assessment and transmission line review process, BBC has exercised judgment in deciding what information is most relevant and what level of detail is appropriate. This relates to project components, geographic extent of impacts, and assessment methodology. Siting Board staff has previously provided review and guidance in this context.

While BBC has thoroughly reviewed the information provided in Lynn Bark Energy Center's Transmission Application and raised questions with the applicant regarding some apparent inconsistencies in that information, we have not conducted an audit of the information and data provided in those documents. Information regarding the layout and features of the proposed transmission line and the surrounding area provided by the applicant is assumed to be accurate for purposes of this review. This review is based on the best available information at this time.

SECTION B.

Executive Summary

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Executive Summary

This report documents the evaluation of an application to construct a non-regulated merchant transmission line in compliance with KRS 278.714. The Kentucky State Board on Electric Generation and Transmission Siting (the Siting Board) received an application from Lynn Bark Energy Center, LLC (hereafter “LBEC”) on June 16, 2026 for approval to construct the nonregulated transmission line in an unincorporated portion of Martin County, Kentucky. Siting Board staff retained BBC Research & Consulting (BBC), a Denver-based firm, to review the LBEC Transmission Application. BBC was directed to review the application for adequacy, visit the site, conduct supplemental research where necessary, and provide recommendations about proposed mitigation measures.

This is the summary of BBC’s final report, which encompasses the LBEC Transmission Application review, summarizes information from the applicant, notes deficiencies, offers supplemental information, and draws conclusions and recommendations related to mitigation. Issues outside the scope of KRS 278.714, including broader environmental issues, were not addressed in this engagement.

Description of the Proposed Transmission Route

The LBEC Transmission Application and supporting materials provide a description of the proposed LBEC transmission route. Additional detail on the route and other information requirements under KRS 278.714 was provided in the applicant’s responses to the First and Second Requests for Information from Siting Board Staff during the Transmission Application review process.

The proposed transmission route would travel approximately 6.27 miles to connect the LBEC solar generating facility substation to the existing Inez substation. The route would include a 150-foot-wide right of way that would be cleared of trees and brush to facilitate maintenance and reduce risks of line interference or fire. After traveling about a mile from the project substation for the LBEC solar energy facility to the edge of that facility, the proposed route travels across 13 parcels of undeveloped land owned by six different landowners to reach the Inez substation.

As noted in LBEC’s response to the Siting Board Staff’s First Request for Information, the route was at least partly determined by the availability of property owners interested in pursuing an easement agreement with LBEC. While LBEC does identify an alternative route in the Transmission Application, the only difference between the proposed route and the alternative route is where the transmission line would enter the substation. More than 90 percent of the proposed route and the alternative route are the same.

The proposed route for the LBEC transmission line would include a 150-foot-wide right of way (ROW). The ROW would be cleared of trees and brush to facilitate maintenance and reduce risks of line interference or fire.

Description of the Proposed Transmission Line

As stated in the LBEC Transmission Application, the transmission line will be a 138 kV nonregulated merchant transmission line. The primary appurtenances to the line will be the anticipated 50 to 60 supporting transmission poles or towers. The towers are expected to be between 60 and 100 feet tall and may include a mix of single engineered poles, lattice structures, or H-frames comprised of either steel or wood.¹

Statement that the proposed electric transmission line and appurtenances will be constructed and maintained in accordance with accepted engineering practices and the National Electric Safety Code

The LBEC Transmission Application contains the following statement:

“Applicant has designed the proposed electric transmission line and appurtenances to be consistent with legal requirements applicable to nonregulated electric transmission lines. Applicant hereby certifies that the proposed nonregulated electric transmission line will be constructed and maintained in accordance with accepted engineering practices and the National Electric Safety Code.”²

Impacts on the Scenic Assets of Kentucky

In its response to the Siting Board Staff’s First Request for Information, LBEC acknowledged that it is not proposing any formal measures to mitigate scenic impacts from the transmission line, but also stated that “a project of this nature is compatible with the scenic surroundings of the area and that there were no scenic areas identified along the proposed transmission route.”³ LBEC also noted that “The nearest designated Scenic Byway is the Country Music Highway which is located approximately 13 miles from the proposed Lynn Bark transmission line routes.”⁴

Two important characteristics of the proposed transmission route in terms of scenic impacts are the dense forest cover along most of the route and the rolling topography of the route (excluding the initial portion of the route which would cross the LBEC generating facility and the final portion immediately proximate to the Inez substation which are flat and unforested). One of the

¹ Lynn Bark Energy Center’s Response to Siting Board Staff’s First Request for Information, question and response number 27. Filed electronically on July 28, 2026.

² Lynn Bark Energy Center LLC Transmission Application. June 2026.

³ Lynn Bark Energy Center’s Response to Siting Board Staff’s First Request for Information, question and response number 4. Filed electronically on July 28, 2026.

⁴ Lynn Bark Energy Center’s Response to Siting Board Staff’s First Request for Information, question and response number 43. Filed electronically on July 28, 2026.

results of the generally forested and rolling topography traversed by the transmission route is that there are few long-distance vistas in the area and visibility of the transmission line will generally be limited to areas in close proximity to the line.

Given the topography of the transmission route and the dense forest cover in most of the area, the most visible portion of the transmission line is likely to be the first mile or so where the line will cross the plateau where the LBEC generating facility will be located. The plateau is generally clear of forest cover, but it is also uninhabited and will only be accessible to the construction workforce and vendors making construction deliveries during completion of the LBEC solar generating facility and to future operating and maintenance workers and vendors after the solar facility becomes operational.

There are ten small neighborhoods located within one mile of the transmission route with a combined total of 91 homes. Most of these neighborhoods are likely to be at least partly screened from views of the transmission line by intervening topography and existing dense tree cover. Some of the homes may have views of short portions of the line.

Summary Findings

BBC believes LBEC has met the statutory requirements in terms of describing the proposed transmission route and transmission line and certifying that the transmission line and appurtenances will be constructed and maintained in accordance with accepted engineering practices and the National Electric Safety Code. The nearest designated Kentucky Scenic Byway is located about 13 miles from the proposed LBEC transmission line route and its scenic values will be unaffected by the proposed transmission line. Although there are ten small neighborhoods located within a mile of the transmission route, the dense forest cover and rolling topography of the route will tend to limit visibility of the transmission line and towers from most of the homes in those neighborhoods.

Mitigation Recommendations

BBC recommends the following mitigation measures:

- 1) LBEC should promptly notify the Siting Board regarding any changes to the proposed transmission route or the right-of-way for the route. The exception to this recommended mitigation measure is the very similar alternate route identified in the LBEC Transmission Application.⁵
- 2) To help protect the scenic assets of Kentucky and minimize impacts to nearby residents, LBEC should limit the extent of tree clearing for the transmission right-of-way to the 150-foot width proposed in the LBEC Transmission Application as much as possible consistent with the need to minimize risks to the safe operation of the transmission line.

⁵ As noted earlier in this report, more than 90 percent of the alternate route is the same as LBEC's proposed route, with the only differences between the routes being in immediate proximity to the Inez substation. Consequently, the alternate route would have essentially the same effects on nearby communities and the scenic assets of Kentucky as the proposed route.

- 3) LBEC or its contractor should control access to the transmission right-of-way during construction and operation. LBEC's access control strategy should include adequate signage at the three primary locations where its contractor will access the transmission right-of-way from the ground – the LBEC solar generating site, South Wolf Creek Road and the Martin County solar generating site.⁶
- 4) Prior to beginning to use helicopters to deliver and help install transmission towers, poles and conductors, LBEC should proactively notify the residents in the nearby neighborhoods identified in Exhibit C submitted with LBEC's Transmission Application.
- 5) Consistent with one of the previous mitigation recommendations for LBEC's solar generating facility, LBEC should extend its Customer Resolution Program to address any complaints from landowners in the ten residential neighborhoods closest to the transmission right of way as identified in Exhibit C submitted with LBEC's Transmission Application.
- 6) LBEC should submit an annual status report on the Customer Resolution Program to the Siting Board, identifying any complaints, the steps taken to resolve those complaints, and whether the complaint was resolved to the satisfaction of the affected landowner.

⁶Per LBEC's responses to the Siting Board's First Request for Information, question 58.

SECTION C.

Detailed Findings and Conclusions

SECTION C.

Detailed Findings and Conclusions

This section provides detailed review and evaluation of the Lynn Bark Energy Center, LLC Transmission Application. (hereafter “LBEC Transmission Application”) as prescribed in Section 1 of KRS 278.714. This review is structured to follow the information required for applications to construct non-regulated merchant transmission lines under Kentucky statutes, including:

1. A full description of the proposed route of the electric transmission line and its appurtenances, including maps. 278.714(2)(b);
2. A full description of the proposed line and appurtenances. 278.714(2)(c);
3. A statement that the proposed electric transmission line and appurtenances will be constructed and maintained in accordance with accepted engineering practices and the National Electric Safety Code. 278.714(2)(d);
4. Determination (by the Siting Board) that the proposed transmission line will minimize significant impacts on the scenic assets of Kentucky. 278.714(3); and
5. Determination (by the Siting Board) that the applicant will construct and maintain the line according to all applicable legal requirements. 278.714 (3).
6. In addition, the Siting Board may consider interstate benefits expected to be achieved by the construction of the transmission line. 278.714 (3).

Although the Siting Board may consider other issues in making its decision, these are beyond the present scope of our inquiry and are not addressed here.

Full Description of the Proposed Route of the Electric Transmission Line and its Appurtenances, Including Maps. KRS 278.714(2)(b)

As is typical during facility permitting, the description of the proposed Lynn Bark Energy Center (hereafter LBEC) transmission route and its appurtenances has evolved and become more specific during the process of obtaining a construction certificate for the solar generating facility and, more recently, during the process of seeking to permit the non-regulated transmission line for that facility.

Route description in LBEC Application for a Certificate for Construction for the solar generating facility. The LBEC Application for a Construction Certificate for their solar generating facility, filed with the Siting Board under case number 2024-00104 on June 7, 2024, described the proposed transmission route as follows: “The Transmission line will be approximately 5.61 miles in length, generally traversing through vacant timberland to the point of interconnection (POI) at the

existing Inez Substation, which is owned by Kentucky Power Company (Kentucky Power), a wholly owned subsidiary of American Electric Power, Inc (AEP).”¹

Route description in LBEC Transmission Application. As stated in the LBEC Transmission Application filed with the Siting Board on June 16, 2026, the proposed transmission line would be located in unincorporated Martin County, Kentucky, approximately 14 miles northeast of the town of Prestonsburg.²

In the LBEC Transmission Application, the transmission route is described as follows: “the proposed Project will be approximately 6.27 miles in length, from the Facility’s onsite substation to the existing Inez Substation...”³. It should be noted that the terminus for the transmission line at the Inez Substation remains the same as stated in the LBEC Application for a Construction Certificate for the solar generating facility, though the length of the proposed line has increased by about 0.66 miles or approximately ten percent.

The currently proposed route for the LBEC transmission line is shown in Figure C-1 on the following page. The slightly longer transmission route than originally anticipated during the process of obtaining a construction certificate for the generating facility may be due to multiple factors, but as noted in LBEC’s response to the Siting Board’s First Data Request regarding the proposed transmission line, “The final route was determined based off the route with landowners interested in pursuing an easement agreement.”⁴

Figure C-1, excerpted from Exhibit B filed with the LBEC Transmission Application, shows a map of the proposed transmission route. The starting point for the transmission route at the project substation for the LBEC solar generating facility is in the top left quadrant of Figure C-1 and the ending point at the existing Inez substation is located in the bottom right quadrant of the figure.

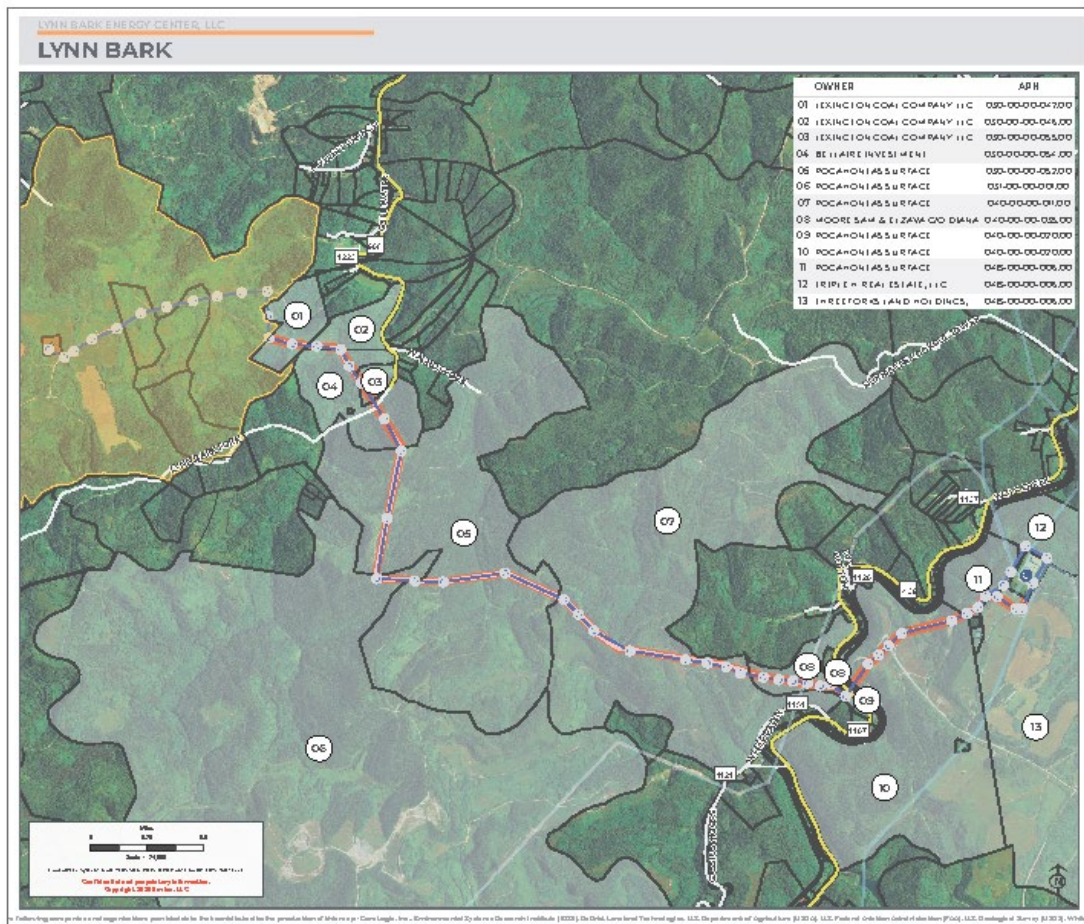
¹ Lynn Bark Energy Application for a Certificate for Construction for an up to 200 Merchant Electric Solar Generating Facility, Tab 2. Proposed Site Description. Filed June 7, 2024.

² Lynn Bark Energy Center LLC Transmission Application. Filed June 16, 2026.

³ Lynn Bark Energy Center LLC Transmission Application. Filed June 16, 2026.

⁴ Lynn Bark Energy Center, LLC’S Response to Siting Board Staff’s First Request for Information question 3. July 28, 2026.

Figure C-1.
Proposed LBEC Transmission Route



Source: Lynn Bark Energy Transmission Application, Exhibit B, June 2026.

As shown in Figure 1, the proposed transmission route would proceed in a generally east/northeast direction from the LBEC generating facility's project substation for about one mile to the eastern edge of the generating facility. The route would then travel in a generally southeast direction for the next mile and a half across lands owned by the Lexington Coal Company (shown as parcels 01, 02 and 03 in Figure 1), Bellaire Investment (parcel 04), and Pocahontas Surface (parcel 05). The route would then proceed in a generally eastward direction for over two miles across more land owned by Pocahontas Surface (parcels 05, 06 and 07) and by Moore Sam & Elzava c/o Diana (parcel 08). The route would then make an almost 90-degree turn to the northeast, cross South Wolf Creek Road and then proceed a little over a mile to reach the existing Inez substation traversing more lands owned by Pocahontas Surface (parcels 09, 10 and 11).

Under the proposed route, the transmission line would enter the Inez substation from the southeast corner of the facility. While LBEC does identify an alternative transmission route, the only difference between the proposed route and the alternative route is regarding where the transmission line would enter the substation. More than 90 percent of the proposed route and the alternative route are the same. Under the alternative route, the transmission line would circle around the western, northern and most

of the eastern side of the substation instead of entering the substation via the more direct approach from the south under the proposed route.

The proposed route for the LBEC transmission line would include a 150-foot-wide right of way (ROW). The ROW would be cleared of trees and brush to facilitate maintenance and reduce risks of line interference or fire.⁵

Full Description of the Proposed Line and Appurtenances. KRS 278.714(2)(c)

As stated in the LBEC Transmission Application, the transmission line will be a 138 kV nonregulated transmission line. The primary appurtenances to the line will be its supporting transmission poles or towers. The towers are expected to be between 60 and 100 feet tall.⁶

Along with the map of the overall transmission route shown previously in Figure C-1, LBEC also provided a series of thirteen 11" by 17" aerial photographs of the transmission route with the proposed route superimposed on the photographs along with 100-foot elevation contour lines, approximate locations of supporting transmission towers and the slope of the land at each potential tower's location. These materials show a total of about 50 transmission tower locations of which 20 are labeled as "lattice" towers and four are labeled as "H-structure" towers. While the information in these aerial photographic maps may be indicative of the general mix of transmission tower types that would be used to support the transmission line, LBEC's response to the Siting Board's First Request indicates that the types of towers and their specific locations have not been finalized:

*"Although a specific design has not been completed, the typical types of transmission utility poles are single engineered poles, lattice structures, or H-frames that comprised of either steel or wood."*⁷

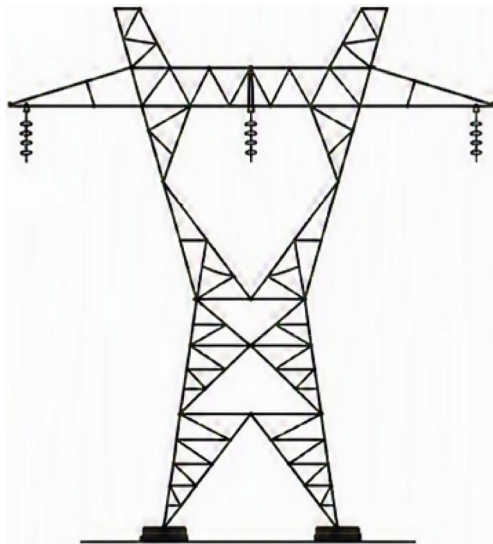
Figure C-2 based on Attachment H provided with the LBEC Transmission Application provides an illustration of typical transmission tower types such as those that may be used to support the LBEC transmission line.

⁵ Lynn Bark Energy Center's Response to Siting Board Staff's First Request for Information, question and response number 5. Filed electronically on July 28, 2026.

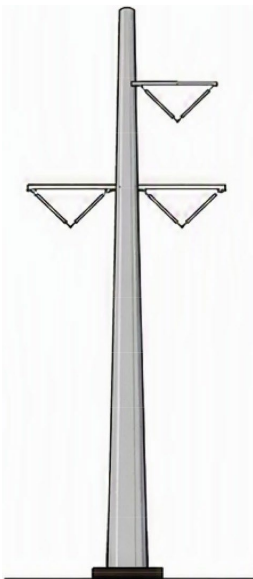
⁶ Lynn Bark Energy Center's Response to Siting Board Staff's First Request for Information, question and response number 27. Filed electronically on July 28, 2026.

⁷ Lynn Bark Energy Center's Response to Siting Board Staff's First Request for Information, question and response number 18. Filed electronically on July 28, 2026.

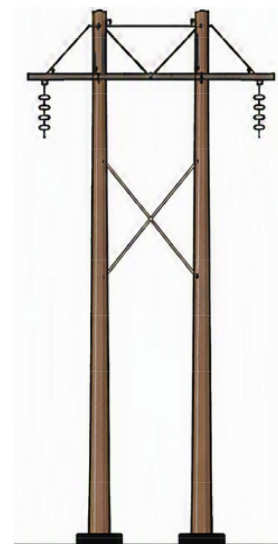
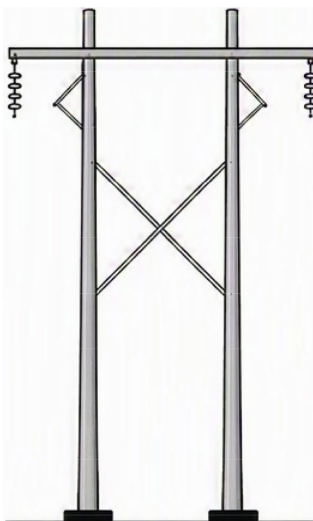
Figure C-2.
Illustrations of Typical Transmission Tower Types



LATTICE HORIZONTAL STRUCTURE



SINGLE-SHAFT
MODIFIED DELTA
STRUCTURE



TUBULAR STEEL H-
FRAME

Source: Lynn Bark Energy Center's
Response to Siting Board Staff's First
Request for Information. Attachment H.
Filed electronically on July 28, 2026.

Statement that the proposed electric transmission line and appurtenances will be constructed and maintained in accordance with accepted engineering practices and the National Electric Safety Code. 278.714(2)(d)

Section IV, pages 5 and 6 of the LBEC Transmission Application contains the following statement:

“Applicant has designed the proposed electric transmission line and appurtenances to be consistent with legal requirements applicable to nonregulated electric transmission lines. Applicant hereby certifies that the proposed nonregulated electric transmission line will be constructed and maintained in accordance with accepted engineering practices and the National Electric Safety Code.”⁸

According to the table of contents provided with the LBEC Transmission Application, the statement cited above was attested to by Jeannine Johnson and Christina Martens. An internet search conducted by BBC on August 13, 2026, indicates that Jeannine Johnson is the Senior Development Manager at Savion, LLC – the renewable energy developer which owns LBEC. Christina Martens is the Public Involvement and Regulatory Contact at Savion, LLC.

While this statement appears to meet the legal requirements under the applicable Kentucky statute and to be consistent with similar statements provided in other applications for non-regulated transmission lines that the Siting Board has approved, the Board could request certified signatures attesting to the statement from Ms. Martens and Ms. Johnson if it deems that to be necessary.

Determination (by the Siting Board) That the Proposed Transmission Line Will Minimize Significant Impacts on the Scenic Assets of Kentucky. 278.714(3)

In its response to the Siting Board Staff’s First Request for Information, LBEC acknowledged that it is not proposing any formal measures to mitigate scenic impacts from the transmission line, but also stated that “a project of this nature is compatible with the scenic surroundings of the area and that there were no scenic areas identified along the proposed transmission route.”⁹ LBEC also stated that “The nearest designated Scenic Byway is the Country Music Highway which is located approximately 13 miles from the proposed Lynn Bark transmission line routes.”¹⁰ Based on the site visit conducted by BBC and Siting Board staff on August 3, 2026, BBC believes it is highly unlikely that the transmission line will be visible from that distance.

Two important characteristics of the proposed transmission route in terms of scenic impacts are the dense forest cover along most of the route and the rolling topography of the route (excluding the initial portion of the route which would cross the LBEC generating facility and the final portion

⁸ Lynn Bark Energy Center LLC Transmission Application. June 2026.

⁹ Lynn Bark Energy Center’s Response to Siting Board Staff’s First Request for Information, question and response number 4. Filed electronically on July 28, 2026.

¹⁰ Lynn Bark Energy Center’s Response to Siting Board Staff’s First Request for Information, question and response number 43. Filed electronically on July 28, 2026.

immediately proximate to the Inez substation). The topography and forest cover will help to limit the extent of the viewshed for the transmission line.

From the topographic standpoint, the initial portion of the route that would be within the LBEC generating facility is relatively flat at between 1,000 and 1,100 feet in elevation. As the route moves southward away from the generating facility, it descends to less than 800 feet in elevation before climbing again to almost 1,400 feet in elevation. As the route turns to a more easterly direction across parcels 06 and 07, it again descends to below 900 feet in elevation before climbing again to over 1,200 feet in elevation. The final portion of the route descends into a relatively steep valley and then climbs back to over 1,000 feet in elevation at the Inez substation. One of the results of this forested and rolling topography is that there are few long-distance vistas in the area and visibility of the transmission line will generally be limited to areas in close proximity.

Given the topography of the transmission route and the dense forest cover in most of the area, the most visible portion of the transmission line is likely to be the first mile or so where the line will cross the plateau where the LBEC generating facility will be located. As shown in the photograph shown in Figure C-3 taken during the site visit on August 3, 2026, the plateau is generally clear of forest cover, but it is also uninhabited and will only be accessible to the construction workforce and construction deliveries during completion of the LBEC solar generating facility and to future operating and maintenance workers after the solar facility becomes operational.

Figure C-3. Location of Future LBEC Solar Generating Facility Substation.



Source: BBC Research & Consulting, 2026.

After the transmission line crosses the plateau where the generating facility will be located, it will descend from about 1,100 feet in elevation to less than 800 feet in elevation. The valley it will cross is densely vegetated, as shown in Figure C-4.

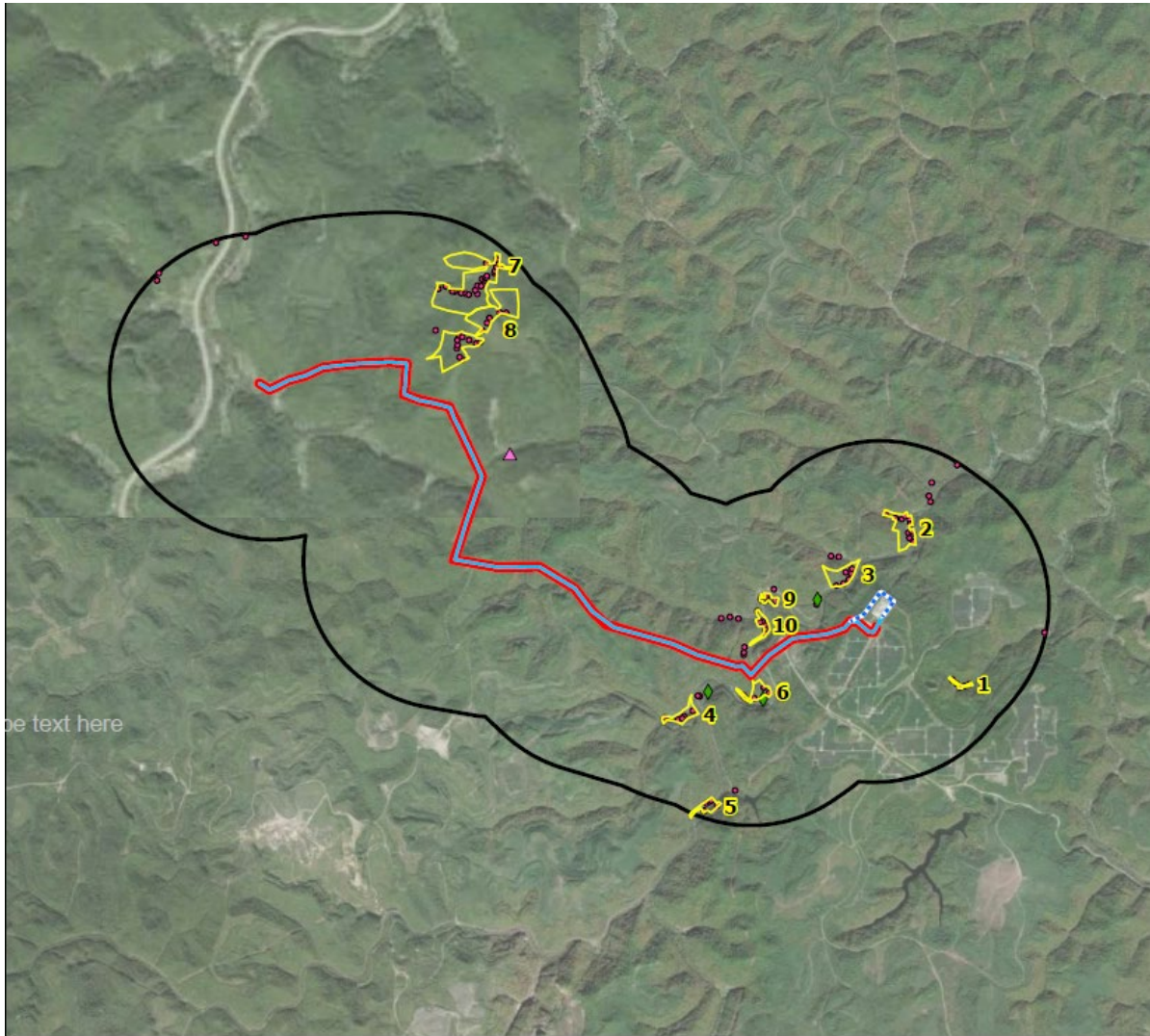
Figure C-4. Forest Cover Near Transmission Route in Valley Below Substation.



Source: BBC Research & Consulting, 2026.

As shown by the areas marked with yellow boundaries in Figure C-5 (copied from the LBEC Transmission Application), there are ten neighborhoods located within one mile of the transmission route. Two of the neighborhoods closest to the proposed transmission line, labelled as neighborhoods 7 and 8 in Figure C-5, are located near County Road 908 in the first valley below the LBEC solar generating facility as the transmission line heads toward the Inez substation.

Figure C-5. Neighborhoods Located Within One Mile of LBEC Transmission Route.



Source: Lynn Bark Energy Transmission Application, Exhibit C, June 2026.

Figure C-6 shows a portion of one of the closest neighborhoods, labelled as “Neighborhood 8” in Figure C-5. Some of the homes furthest to the southwest in this neighborhood appear to be within about one half mile of the transmission line, but it is uncertain if they will have a view of the line given the local topography and forest cover.

Figure C-6. Neighborhood 8 Below and East of the LBEC Generating Site.



Source: BBC Research & Consulting, 2026.

Likely the most visible portion of the transmission line (apart from the portion of the line where it crosses the LBEC solar generating site) will be where the line crosses the final valley east of the generating facility heading to the Inez substation. As shown in Figure C-7, this relatively deep valley already has distant views of the Inez substation (located furthest to the right along the ridge), along with another substation on the far left of the photograph (believed to be abandoned) and existing transmission lines – some of which may be active and others of which may now be inactive.

Figure C-6. Easternmost Valley Below Inez Substation.



Source: BBC Research & Consulting, 2026.

Figure C-7, excerpted from BBC's previous site assessment review for the nearby Martin County solar generating facility in 2021, shows a different view of the Inez substation from the south. The LBEC transmission line would approach the substation from valley below and to the left of the substation in this photograph.

Figure C-7. Inez substation viewed from the site of the Martin County solar generating facility in 2021.



Visual impact summary. The proposed LBEC transmission line will be most visible on the top of the plateau where the generating facility will be located. There are no residences in that area. After the line leaves the plateau and heads west and southwest towards the Inez substation it will travel over several valleys and ridges which, together with the existing dense forest cover, will tend to limit any long-distance visual impacts from the line.

The other area where the line will be most visible is near the far eastern end of the transmission route as the line crosses a relatively deep valley to reach the substation. This area already has views of the Inez substation, another formerly active substation and other existing transmission lines which may or may not still be active.

According to Exhibit C provided with the LBEC Transmission Application, there are ten small neighborhoods located within one mile of the proposed transmission line which have a combined total of 91 homes. Most of these neighborhoods are likely to be at least partly screened from views of the transmission line by intervening topography and existing dense vegetation. Some of the homes may have views of a small portion of the line.

Determination (by the Siting Board) that the applicant will construct and maintain the line according to all applicable legal requirements. 278.714 (3)

Based on the information provided by LBEC to the Siting Board as summarized on page C-6 of this report, and in the absence of any known prior violations of legal requirements by the transmission line developer (Savion LLC), BBC recommends that the Siting Board expect that the applicant will meet all applicable legal requirements in constructing and maintaining the LBEC transmission line.¹¹

Consideration of interstate benefits expected to be achieved by the construction of the transmission line. 278.714 (3)

Per KRS 278.714 (3), the Siting Board may also consider interstate benefits expected to be achieved by the construction of the transmission line. In their response to the Siting Board Staff's First Request for Information, LBEC stated that "The proposed transmission line will allow for reliable and affordable energy to be dispatched to Kentucky and beyond via the PJM transmission system."¹²

Recommended Mitigation

Kentucky statutes regarding Siting Board review of proposals to construct merchant transmission lines (KRS 278.714) include the following language:

"The board may hire a consultant to review the transmission line or carbon dioxide pipeline and provide recommendations concerning the adequacy of the application and proposed mitigation measures.¹³" (emphasis added by BBC).

Based on our review of the materials provided in the LBEC Transmission Application LBEC's responses to Siting Board Staff's First and Second Requests for Information, BBC's previous review of the Site Assessment Report for the LBEC generating facility, and our visit to the transmission line site on August 3, 2026, BBC recommends the following mitigation measures:

- 1) LBEC should promptly notify the Siting Board regarding any changes to the proposed transmission route or the right-of-way for the route. The exception to this recommended mitigation measure is the similar alternate route already identified and described in the LBEC Transmission Application.¹⁴

¹¹ Savion LLC is a fully owned subsidiary of Shell Oil.

¹² Lynn Bark Energy Center's Response to Siting Board Staff's First Request for Information, question and response number 46. Filed electronically on July 28, 2026.

¹³ KRS 278.714(1).

¹⁴ As noted earlier in this report, more than 90 percent of the alternate route is the same as LBEC's proposed route, with the only differences between the routes being in immediate proximity to the Inez substation. Consequently, the alternate route would have essentially the same effects on nearby communities and the scenic assets of Kentucky as the proposed route.

- 2) To help protect the scenic assets of Kentucky and minimize visual impacts to nearby residents, LBEC should limit the extent of tree clearing for the transmission right-of-way to the 150-foot width proposed in the LBEC Transmission Application as much as possible consistent with the need to minimize risks to the safe operation of the transmission line.
- 3) LBEC or its contractor should control access to the transmission right-of-way during construction and operation. LBEC's access control strategy should include adequate signage at the three primary locations where its contractor will access the transmission right-of-way from the ground – the LBEC solar generating site, South Wolf Creek Road and the Martin County solar generating site.¹⁵
- 4) Prior to beginning to use helicopters to deliver and help install transmission towers, poles and conductors, LBEC should proactively notify the residents in the nearby neighborhoods identified in Exhibit C submitted with LBEC's Transmission Application.
- 5) Consistent with BBC's previous mitigation recommendation for LBEC's solar generating facility, LBEC should extend its Customer Resolution Program to address any complaints from landowners in the ten residential neighborhoods in closest proximity to the transmission right of way as identified in Exhibit C submitted with LBEC's Transmission Application.
- 6) LBEC should submit an annual status report on the Customer Resolution Program to the Siting Board, identifying any complaints, the steps taken to resolve those complaints, and whether the complaint was resolved to the satisfaction of the affected landowner.

¹⁵Per LBEC's responses to the Siting Board's First Request for Information, question 58.