Kentucky Public Service Commission Board on Electric Generation and Transmission, 211 Sewer Boulvard, Frankfort, Ky 40602

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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Re: Rhudes Creek Solar Project # 2021-00127

To whom it may concern;

I am writing to express my opposition to this site for use as an solar field using 1072 acres of prime farmland in Hardin County. Since my past Education in Geology/ Earth Sciences and my farming this area for some 50 years, I will concentrate on those two issues only in this paper. I was born in a farmhouse only ½ mile from this proposed site and as a young man walked with my father over most of this land rabbit hunting when I was young.

Science: According to the Kentucky Geological Survey, Dr. James C. Currens, (Kentucky is Karst Country) 2002.,the site of this proposed solar field is right in the middle of Karst Geology. (see map, page 1of the publication)) The many sinkholes in this area, some visible, some are slightly covered, create many negative effects for any type of development. Sinkholes do not disappear and they get worst with time. On occasions the sinkholes will break open unexpectly. I personally have had farm equipment fall into these, the first time an axle broke at the front of the tractor, second, the whole front wheel of the combine fell into a sinkhole and had to get pulled out with a wrecker. Surface water runs into sinkholes and go directly into the underground water table. (1) This is very serious if any types of harmful materials or elements are washed into these depressions. Knowing this, farmers are very careful not to spray any fungicides or herbicides too close to the sinkholes.

(2) The Hardin County Water Company No. 2 draws it source down stream from this site from a spring. There are signs on the road stating that this is a water source area and to report any spills. This is very important to prevent dangerous elements getting into our water supply. Many residents along the site especially along Black Branch Road South who still use their wells for their water supply. They are not on "County water". Right across the road from these homes are the fields listed as part of the solar field.. Again and even more seriously is the devastating effect any harmful elements getting into their wells from the solar project would have. Sickness or death to themselves or their livestock could occur. They are very concerned about this.

(3)Surface water(Runoff) Another problem with this site is the history of flooding. Many times flooding occurs in this areas. Several times the Black Branch Road is closed and even U.S.62 has been closed near the northern

border of this site. The Hardin County Board of Education chose not to build the Cecilia/Valley School here due to the frequencies of flooding. There is some flooding when there is only a 2 inch rain. The drainage of these fields run right beside some of the homes. 200,000 flat solar panels will most certainly cause much Runoff. Additional surface runoff would destroy some of these structures. The problem is exacerbated when the water comes up from the sinkholes. Not all, but several sinkholes have connecting caverns with the Ohio River. When the Ohio River gets high, water will come up in the sink holes. I have two of these sinkholes on one of my farms. Most of the Run Off in this area drains into the Nolin River. Many miles of prime farmland and farms lie downstream from this location. They too would be affected in a negative way with increased flooding.

(4) Loss of Prime Farmland; The proposed site of the Rhudes Creek Solar Facility is just southwest of the town of Cecilia. This area is some of the Best Farmland in Hardin County. The topography is gently rowing with deep topsoil. Very few rocks are present, no large limestones are present in the soil, which consists of Crider type(USDA Soil Conservation Service, map p. 32). "Crider soils is described as deep loamy soils/ Karst uplands are common,18 % Pembroke soils and 17 % Cumberland soils. Highly productive but cover crops recommended to prevent soil erosion" . These fields are most used by farmers for grain farming but there are some livestock raised on neighbors property. The corn Yield is usually over 200 bushels per acre, soybeans average in the 70 bushel range, wheat is usually also in the 70 bushel range.....highly productive. Just down the road my friend grew 316 bushels corn and won the Kentucky corn yield contest. This is very good agricultural land. This is the type of land that we need to keep in agriculture for food, feed, and fuel(ethanol). Once this topsoil is moved around with any type of development, including solar, then that soil will never be the same! The Best Green Energy we have is right outside our backdoor here. Everyday green plants take in Carbon, clean the air, and give us oxygen. They prevent erosion and produce food, feed, and fuel for our country. "Prime Farmland should be kept" Department of Agricultural Economics, U. of K., Dr. Alison F. Davis, "Considerations for Future Utility Scale Solar Farm Developments", Sept. 2020. Good Farmland is The Best Renewable Energy Source.

I would ask that you would let other residents and other farmers tell their concerns about why the solar plant should not be here. A local hearing is requested. Note: the H.C. Planning/Development Commission denied the Solar development due to some of the above issues. Thank you for your time

J David Miller Denise J Miller

J. David and Denise Miller

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