Please find the following in response to requested case file number 2021-00235

Please add the following statement from the Mark and Connie Hall Family into the case file record

Thank You

Comments from the Mark and Connie Hall Family on the Proposed Solar Farm Project

My wife, Connie, and I purchased a small farm located at 515 Marian Acres on the outskirts of Russellville. Kentucky over 35 years ago. This is where we live now and where we raised our family. As the seasons passed, we have enjoyed watching the crops grow and living the country life. Considering the location and the fertility of the land, we always believed the best use of the land was crop production. We never imagined that our community would be transformed into a power generation facility.

Our family objects to the construction and installation of the solar farm.

We offer the following points to support our position:

#1 - Unsound Economics

While owners don't have unlimited rights with respect to land use, we believe that owners' interests should be the primary consideration in most cases. In this case however, the landowners are induced to convert high value farmland by artificial financial incentives outside of the normal market. The project's viability is held together by subsidies, set asides, credits, and other financial gimmickries. In summary, the project is not based on sound economics.

This project is viable only under the guise of being better for the environment. It is important to note that the construction of solar panels and batteries have significant environmental consequences. The production of rare earth metals and copper require many tons of excavated soils from open pit mines. The manufacture of the components requires petroleum or coal fuels to refine the materials. The panels may produce green power, but the creation of the panels is very un-green. The introduction of sheep grazing under the panels does not disguise the adverse environmental attributes on the project.

If TVA needed solar power, it would have already installed it. TVA would much rather have immediately dispatchable power generated from clean natural gas.

We must only look down the road a few miles toward Clarksville to see how a similar government subsidized program, wasted hundreds of millions of tax dollars to build a solar factory that was obsolete as it was being constructed and never even opened.

Russia and the Ukraine produce a preponderance of the world's wheat and other food stuffs. The ongoing war in central Asia will inevitably create inflated grain prices here in America and potential famines in other parts of the world. Is this a good time to remove fertile land for grain crops? With inflated grain prices, the agricultural value of this land may increase significantly.

We understand that the landowners face a tough financial decision. If Connie and I were offered sufficient compensation we might just decide to take the money, pull up stakes, move. That would be a difficult decision, but we would at least have the financial means to recreate our homestead somewhere away from solar farms and other industrial development.

#2 - Improper Siting

Setting aside the economic argument, there is the question of where a solar farm like this one should be installed? Western Kentucky has many acres of mining reclamation, brownfields, and undeveloped hillsides that are much better siting choices than prime Logan County farmland.

Just like any building project, there are good locations and bad locations. We contend that the edge of our family farm is a bad location.

We hope that the owners offering to provide leases can profit by leaving their land in crop production. That would be good for them and allow us to maintain the agricultural environment around our family farm.

We hope the committee will agree that the siting of the solar farm at this location is a poor choice even in the absence of any economic objections.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our case.

Mark and Connie Hall Family