

**From:** [PSC Executive Director](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Case file 2021-00127  
**Date:** Thursday, January 27, 2022 2:13:00 PM

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Thank you for your comments on the application of Rhudes Creek Solar, LLC. Your comments in the above-referenced matter have been received and will be placed into the case file for the Commission's consideration. Please cite the case number in this matter, 2021-00127, in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at [View Case Filings for: 2021-00127 \(ky.gov\)](#).

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

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**From:** Bramblett, Andrea (PSC) <[andrea.bramblett@ky.gov](mailto:andrea.bramblett@ky.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 26, 2022 8:21 AM  
**To:** PSC Executive Director <[PSCED@ky.gov](mailto:PSCED@ky.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: case file 2021-00127

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**From:** PSC Public Information Officer <[PSC.Info@ky.gov](mailto:PSC.Info@ky.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2022 4:21 PM  
**To:** PSC Public Comment <[psc.comment@ky.gov](mailto:psc.comment@ky.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: case file 2021-00127

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**From:** sandra hoh [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 11:25 AM  
**To:** PSC Public Information Officer <[PSC.Info@ky.gov](mailto:PSC.Info@ky.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fw: case file 2021-00127

I am passing this email on as requested by Mike Callen. This is to be enter for Case file 2021-00127 Rhudes Creek

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**From:** mikesindahouse [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 6, 2022 6:32 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Cecelia Solar Farm vs Crane Wintering habitat.

Dear Sandra,

I hope this email finds you in time. If you could please forward my comments to the entity who will be making a decision about the proposed solar farms in Cecilia, KY. I would greatly appreciate it! I have hoped to attend the meeting today in person but that was not possible with the snow.

Dear Sir or Madam,

I'm writing to you in favor of both installing solar and maintaining sufficient crane wintering habitat around Cecilia, KY. I am proposing solar farms are spaced out enough so that the sandhill and

whooping cranes will not be impacted by them. Based on my observations of cranes and intuition as an degreed engineer I believe that limiting solar total solar farm footprint to 20% (128 acres) in any given square mile, will result in minimal impact on the cranes' wintering grounds. The solar farm footprint includes any land that will no longer be farmed. I realize this initial proposal being considered is for only about 100 acres of farmland to be converted but, surely this is but a drop in the bucket of what is to come.

It is evident from the eBird data available that the farm fields in the vicinity of Cecilia, KY are favored by the cranes compared to other seemingly suitable areas. For reasons we do not fully understand they have favored the Cecilia's farm fields over all other fields for a hundred or more miles in any direction for reasons we don't fully understand. To expect these birds to simply use fields in the next town is a very dubious assumption as the birds might not find the habitat as suitable and the locals may not be as tolerant.

The cranes birds face many threats in during their winter stays in Kentucky, but the greatest threat is loss of suitable habitat where they are protected from hunting. The birds likely prefer the grounds near Cecilia due to sheer size of continuous habitat, tolerance by locals (little or no hunting activity), low numbers predators, and abundance of nutritious food and clean water. These are not things to be taken for granted in today's world and without any one of these characteristics the my would very likely not use the land in abundance. If we allow a high density of land they use to be converted to another use, such as a solar farm. The birds who would perhaps gather what remains likely will not tolerate it because A predator could be hiding behind the next row of panels and food would not be as abundant.

I do want to state that I'm all for having many thousands of acres of solar farms installed in Kentucky but I'm also in favor of mandating large developments for residential or industrial use have rooftop solar. We only have so much land and we need to make the best use of it that we can while setting aside enough for nature to thrive among us. I would also propose that any ground based installations must be full tracking in order to maximize power output and minimize land footprint.

Installing vast quantities of solar is going to be key for the state to reduce it's reliance upon fossil fuels and fight climate change which also helps protect the environment, human life as well as wildlife However, history has shown us this far that most human caused extinctions are due to habitat loss and hunting. These greater and more immediate threats to wildlife survival and will contribute more to future extinctions even as the climate warms unless we start changing how we develop and use our lands.

So while we do desperately need solar in Kentucky, but we must be careful to install it in places and in manners that do not cause major shifts or declines in wildlife population within the commonwealth. What is needed are better rules which will satisfy both the need for solar in Kentucky and ensure enough habitat to remains suitable for the crane's use.

As our cities and towns and industries expand into the countryside we must recognize that we have already altered the landscape significantly and that a lack of natural habitat especially prairie and wetland, but also forest is already absent. To prevent more extirpation and possible endangerment of wildlife within this state, our country, and in the world we must as a society take great care to set aside, preserve and encourage reversion land back to it's natural habitat. It starts with folks like us in the local community making smart decisions, instead of the most financially beneficial or expedient ones.

Spreading out the solar farms and limiting development in the area the cranes use may be inconvenient, but it is in my estimation the only way to ensure the thousands upon thousands of

cranes that depend on this site as their winter refuge are not diminished.

I will add one more thought to whatever body may govern this decision: if you do take up my proposal there needs to be a provision made, so solar farm developers to can't just decide to buy a bunch of forest nearby that the cranes don't use and level that for the farms. That's not the intent of my proposal. The intent is to use farmland that isn't favored by the cranes, and/or to distribute the solar farms in small enough patches across the farmland that the cranes are not impacted or displaced by it.

If you need help establishing what land is favored by the cranes I will make myself available to you to help analyze the data on eBird or you may want to reach out to the people at Cornell university, who run the eBird database and website, for their input.

Respectfully,  
Mike Callan, PE,  
Mechanical Engineer  
Bird and Nature Enthusiast  
Louisville, KY 40299  
[REDACTED]

\*Larry Waddell  
Resident Representative  
1759 Valley Creek Road  
Elizabeth, KENTUCKY 42701

\*James W Gardner  
Sturgill, Turner, Barker & Moloney, PLLC  
333 West Vine Street  
Suite 1400  
Lexington, KENTUCKY 40507

\*Mark Hinton  
Chairman  
1245 West Bryan Road  
 Elizabethtown, KENTUCKY 42701

\*M. Todd Osterloh  
Sturgill, Turner, Barker & Moloney, PLLC  
333 West Vine Street  
Suite 1400  
Lexington, KENTUCKY 40507