

10-25-2022

Dear board members,

I write to you with concerns regarding Thoroughbred Solar's plan to construct a solar farm in Hart County, Kentucky, consisting of approximately 500 acres of land. This acreage is located south of the town of Munfordville and is roughly a half-mile from the banks of Kentucky's Green River.

One point that concerns me greatly is the potential decrease in surrounding property values if this solar farm is erected. Myself and others in the community have found the property value assessment present in Thoroughbred Solar's case filings to be most unconvincing. The company chose to obscure impacts on property values less than one mile from solar farm installations. The company also cited studies that used categories designed for the particular population density of Massachusetts and present these as being applicable to Kentucky. We feel that it would be in the best interests of our community if you, the board, conduct your own independent studies where property values are concerned.

My second concern is regarding regulations. Thoroughbred Solar is attempting to have a statute, KRS 278.706(2)(e) waived in order to construct their solar farm. This statute prohibits the construction of solar farm infrastructures within 2,000 feet of residential neighborhoods—but Thoroughbred appears to be deliberately withholding this information from the Hart County citizens impacted by the project. A public hearing on this matter is paramount and must be held before you, the board, makes their final decision.

Thoroughbred Solar has submitted a project design that illustrates FEMA-designated flood lands within tracts of project land. They do not build on these designated lands. However, these designations do not properly display the realities of erosion and waterflows on this landscape. It would appear that Thoroughbred Solar is unaware that during periods of heavy rainfall, heavy streams have a tendency to form on a hillside where the company plans to erect solar installations. Often, this water flows over road surfaces as it makes its way downhill to a large sinkhole located mere hundreds of feet, in two different directions, from the project boundaries (I might add this particular sinkhole, located just feet from my own property line, does not appear in Thoroughbred Solar's commissioned geotechnical analysis—this illustrates their apparent disinterest in potential externalities caused by their project!). I am guessing that Thoroughbred Solar is not aware of a massive sinkhole swallowing 8 Corvette cars at the Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, Kentucky on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014!

As I mentioned earlier, the land slated for the project is located in immediate proximity to the Green River, raising questions about potential impacts on this important waterway that has been found to be one of the world's most diverse rivers. The Green River has been home to many species of freshwater mollusks or mussels. These incredible marine creatures are actively filtering the water, helping keep the river clean. Unfortunately, many of these mussels are now recognized, at the federal level, as an endangered species. The Nature Conservancy has been working diligently since the 1990s to conserve the Green River and the species that make their home in it.

Likewise, the Center for Mollusk Conservation, established in 2002 and located in Frankfort, Kentucky, has been working extremely hard to preserve the Green River's mussel colonies. In the past few years, the Center has successfully reared several rare and endangered mussel species to a stockable size. In addition, on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020, in conjunction with the National Park Service, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife stocked around 1,200 individual mussels into the Green River within Mammoth Cave National Par in order to restore an endangered species historically found in waters of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

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A key plank in conservation and wildlife management (especially where there are questions surrounding the management of endangered species and delicate ecosystems) is something known as “source-sink dynamics”, which is about how changes in habitat qualities can lead to decreases in wildlife population levels. With erosion issues being a key concern when it comes to solar farm builds, these sources of concerns must be foregrounded, and all those involved in preserving these lands, their waterways, and their multispecies inhabitants must be brought into the conversation. (We haven't even broached yet the question of potential pollution issues due to building an industrial project atop the complex hydrological systems within this region's ever-shifting karst landscape!)

It is my hope, after taking into consideration these concerns, you will see how damaging this solar farm could potentially be, both to our communities and to the ecosystem we co-exist with.

Sincerely, Beverly Berger

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Beverly Berger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B'.