



Andy Beshear
Governor

Kent A. Chandler
Chairman

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Energy and Environment Cabinet

Commonwealth of Kentucky
**Kentucky State Board on
Electric Generation and
Transmission Siting**
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P.O. Box 615
Frankfort, Kentucky 40602-0615
Telephone: (502) 564-3940

February 5, 2024

PARTIES OF RECORD

Re: CASE NO. 2023-00246

Notice is given to all parties that the attached minutes of the public meeting held at the Christian County Clerks office on January 29, 2024, has been filed into the record of this proceeding.

If you have any comments you would like to make regarding the contents of the document, please do so within five days of receipt of this letter. If you have any questions, please contact Nicole Carr, Staff Attorney, at Nicole.Carr@ky.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Linda C. Bridwell" followed by "PE" in a smaller font.

Linda C. Bridwell, PE
Executive Director
On Behalf of the Siting Board

Attachment

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE KENTUCKY STATE BOARD ON ELECTRIC GENERATION
AND TRANSMISSION SITING

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION OF DOGWOOD)	
CORNERS LLC FOR CERTIFICATE OF)	
CONSTRUCTION FOR AN APPROXIMATELY 125)	CASE NO.
MEGAWATT MERCHANT ELECTRIC SOLAR)	2023-00246
GENERATING FACILITY IN CHRISTIAN)	
COUNTY, KENTUCKY PURSUANT TO KRS)	
278.700 AND 807 KAR 5:110)	

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING HELD AT THE CHRISTIAN COUNTY CLERK'S
OFFICE ON JANUARY 29, 2024, AT 4:00 P.M.

A public meeting was held at the Christian County Clerk's Office on January 29, 2024, regarding Dogwood Corners LLC (Dogwood Corners) application for a Certificate of Construction for a merchant electric solar generating facility. Linda Bridwell, Executive Director of the Public Service Commission conducted the information session. Ms. Bridwell introduced the Kentucky State Board on Electric Generation and Transmission Siting (Siting Board) and explained the procedure and protocol for the information session. Ms. Bridwell then offered an overview of the legal basis, criteria, and review process for the Siting Board's consideration of the application. Ms. Bridwell's presentation also included a general overview of the Dogwood Corners project. Attendees were also told how to submit a public comment in writing if they wished to do so in addition to or in lieu of a comment at the public meeting. At the conclusion of the information session, Chairman of the Siting Board, Kent Chandler, and Vice Chair Angie Hatton, initiated the public comment portion of the event setting forth the procedure and

protocol for the comments. Chairman Chandler then called out each name of the person that had signed up the Sign In sheet to make a comment the Dogwood Corners proposed project. The following individuals spoke at the public meeting:

1. Jeremy Welch, from Southeast Ohio. Mr. Welch spoke on behalf of the carpenters' union. Mr. Welch stated that this project would be a good project for local carpenters because of the pay and local carpenters would not have to travel for work. Mr. Welch stated that the project would provide good benefits for families of the carpenters. Mr. Welch stated that carpenters often miss a lot of family events because they must travel for work.

2. Wayne Hunt, Herman, Kentucky. Mr. Hunt indicated that he owns 21 operations in 6 different states. Mr. Hunt stated that he feared that solar is a threat to agriculture. Mr. Hunt expressed concerns about how important agriculture is to Christian County. Mr. Hunt stated that this project would be taking the best farmland away. Mr. Hunt also expressed concerned about after the solar project has ended that the farmland would no longer be able to be used as farmland again. Mr. Hunt indicated that the community should have a say about what happens in their community.

3. Lonnie Calvert: Louisville Labor International Union. Mr. Calvert stated that these jobs are not temporary but can lead permanent career paths. Mr. Calvert stated that these jobs can lead to living wages and pensions. Mr. Calvert stated that he is in support of the project.

4. Jerry Knoll. Mr. Knoll indicated that he was opposed to the project. Mr. Knoll is concerned about how the project will affect the migratory patterns of the deer, bob cats, and coyotes. Mr. Knoll indicated that this project would have a negative effect

to hundreds of people in the Dogwood community. Mr. Knoll feels that this project would be a nuisance.

5. Marvie Slagle, Hopkinsville, KY. Ms. Slagle. voiced concerned about owner property rights. Ms. Slagle was concerned with the idea that the government can make regulations about what you can do with your property. Ms. Slagle indicated that we need to be cautious about how we are making regulations. Ms. Slagle stated that other business has come into the community in the past and wanted money, but this project is not asking for any money and will be an economic benefit to the community.

6. Bryan Burkehead, Hopkinsville. Mr. Burkehead stated that he was not against solar but that solar has its place. Mr. Burkehead stated that the company has disregarded the local ordinance, and it goes to the character of the company. Mr. Burkehead stated that there was no public notice for the local public comment meeting and that this meeting was just scheduled that day. Mr. Burkehead stated that this project has divided families and the community.

7. Senator Whitney Westerfield. Sen. Westerfield stated that he is not against solar. Sen. Westerfield stated that the issue arises when what a property owner does on their land interferes with his land. Sen. Westerfield stated that the project will affect wildlife and diminish property values. Sen. Westerfield stated that the company has not been forthright and has lied about complying with the local ordinance. He stated that the comments you have heard from local residents should carry more weight than those out of state laborers. Sen. Westerfield stated that most people are here for the meeting because they are against the project.

8. Pat Morris, Pembroke Road, Hopkinsville, KY. Mr. Morris stated that he is in support of the project. Mr. Morris stated that this project will only 0.164% of the land mass of Christian County. This solar project will create new farming activities that other ventures lack.

9. Brandon Garnett, Hopkinsville, KY. Mr. Garnett was concerned because his mother's home is in the backyard of the project. Mr. Garnett is in opposition of the project. Mr. Garnett stated that Christian County has 216,00 acres of tillable farmland. Christian County is number one producer of corn and wheat production and number three in soybean production. Christian County is known across the southeast for agriculture.

10. Caleb Ballard, Christian County. Mr. Ballard stated that he has seen a lot of deception from the company. Mr. Ballard stated that the original proposal was approved by elected officials who are no longer in those positions. Mr. Ballard expressed concern because the taxpayers and neighbors were the last one to know about this project. Mr. Ballard stated that he was not affected by this project but another project in Tennessee a methane gas plant.

The Chairman opened the floor for anyone who wanted to make additional comments that had not signed up on the sign-in sheet prior to the beginning of the meeting. The following comments were provided:

1. Phillip Gardner, Christian County, Kentucky. Mr. Gardner stated that he has a family farm of 500 acres. The agricultural land has been good to the community. Mr. Gardner indicated that the agricultural is very important the community. Mr. Gardner stated that this project will use a lot of land for not a lot of public good.

2. Crystal Kirkman, Goode Road, Christian County, Kentucky. Ms. Kirkman is a landowner, real estate agent and a broker. Ms. Kirkman expressed that the project will decrease the value of property that her family owns. Ms. Kirkman stated that a more detailed appraisal is needed to show the effect the project will have on adjacent landowners. Ms. Kirkman stated that views affect property values. Ms. Kirkman indicated that she will be able to see solar panels on three sides of her property.

3. Walter Cummings Jr., Dogwood Kelly Road, Christian County. Mr. Cummings stated that he is a fourth-generation landowner. Mr. Cummings Jr. stated that the evergreen trees are not going to cover everything. He is concerned about the property value of his home that he just built. Mr. Cummings Jr. is concerned about the view. Mr. Cummings Jr stated that he saw four bald eagles, and this project will disturb their habitat.

4. Robert Akin: Greensburg, KY Labor Union. Mr. Akin stated that the biggest problem is finding jobs for young people. Mr. Akin stated through their program workers are able to become apprentices. Mr. Akin stated that young people are able to be learn a trade, a career. Mr. Akin indicated that there is no easy answer.

5. Bobby Riggins. Mr. Riggins stated that young people do not want to work. Mr. Riggins stated that 90% of the people who want the project are getting paid a lot of money.

6. Casey Richardson, Ohio County, Kentucky. Mr. Richardson is a millwright by trade and represents the carpenters in the area. Mr. Richardson stated that there are 60 members that live in Hopkinsville. Mr. Richardson stated that the battery plant has been the best thing that has happened to the workers in the area. Mr. Richardson expressed concerned because he often has to work in Indiana and Indiana gets the

county taxes. Mr. Richardson stated that any development in the area is good. Mr. Richardson stated that kids that live in the area that attend vocational school uses their curriculum. Mr. Richardson supports the solar project.

7. Ronnie Kavanaugh, McCracken, Kentucky. Mr. Kavanaugh stated that is with the carpenter and mill right out of western Kentucky. M r. Kavanaugh stated many members have to travel for work and this would give workers the chance to be close to home. Mr. Kavanaugh stated that this project would be a good opportunity.

The Chairman opened the floor for additional comments. When none were made, he provided the way to file additional comments into the record and the public meeting was adjourned.

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