

Kentucky State Board on Electric Generation  
211 Sower Boulevard  
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Frankfort, KY 40602

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COMMISSION**

Case: 2024-00337

July 9, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

I was born in 1937 and was raised in Barren County, Kentucky and have walked the roads where the proposed solar development will be. I have waded in the creeks and enjoyed the natural beauty of the land.

I am the widow of a second-generation farmer and have spent my life working on the farm and taking great efforts to preserve the land for future generations. Our farm is less than a mile away from the development and we have never heard one word from the developer of this project.

I hate to see the land damaged with solar panels and I fear the damage it will do to my families' and my neighbors' crops and cattle. I know the panels can break and can leak. I know the steel poles and fences can rust. I know the rust will contaminate the water and it will affect life at Mammoth Cave. But, I also know with the extensive rains and flash flooding in this area, our crops can be damaged by broken glass and chemicals. Our cattle can be impacted by the glass and chemicals. We sell our cattle for food and these solar panels put our food supply chain at risk. It must be stopped.

In addition to my family and neighbors' potential threats, I am concerned for the Amish community. In the early 1980s, my husband and I helped to bring the first group of Amish to our community. We sold two farms to them and helped to bring them here on buses. It was about 20 adults and 20 children. We welcomed them to our community, believing it would always be a safe place for them to live. This solar project threatens their existence.

The Amish Community relies on the land and they use the land for our food and their livelihood. The run-off and the ground water that will flow to their farms and homesteads and will endanger their lives, their children and animals by water, soil and chemical contamination. They need clean water for their drinking water, wells, reserves, tanks and barrels. They wash their clothes in water that needs to be free from toxins.

I am concerned with flooding that may occur as the rain is diverted by the solar panels which can flood homes and crops. The water in our streams and ponds will become contaminated by the toxins released when the rainwater hits the panels releasing, layer by layer the film coating which is applied over top of the panels, a type of zinc and sunscreen chemicals which are harmful.

I am concerned if chemicals are used to clean the panels. These could cause illness and death to the Amish and their animals. The chemicals and toxins will seep into the water that is consumed by vegetable plants, fruit bearing trees, fish and wildlife.

This development will be surrounded with perimeter fence which will displace habitat and will reduce food supply for their families. It will also rust and release that into the soil and run-off water.

I know everyone is concerned with health issues and knowing many of the chemicals used in the panels are hazardous and cause cancer and other illnesses. I am concerned with the health issues and fear for the Amish who often shy away from traditional medical treatments. The Amish seek refuge in country settings away from industry so they can live off of the land and making a living off of the land. Allowing this project to continue destroys those opportunities.

I have read that solar panels will increase the air temperature. We already struggle with excessive heat in the summer and just recently learned about corn humidity or corn sweat which increases the humidity around corn fields during the summer. The Amish do not have air conditioning and rely on the natural air. The solar panels will remain hot even after sundown resulting in unbearable temperatures in their homes day and night. Their elders, women and children should not have to endure such temperatures while tending to the land, gardening, schooling, or any indoor or outdoor activity.

They cool their homes by open windows and the constant humming of the invertors will be a nuisance. They will not be able to escape the noise from inside or outside. Their rest at night will be disrupted and the quietness of their lifestyle will be distorted by the increase in noise.

But, perhaps most important, as their communities grow, there will be no land for them to purchase for their homesteads because of this project. They will have to travel further from their communities for work and for land to lease. Every additional mile they have to travel puts them in danger and the glare from the panels will be blinding to their horses and drivers increasing the probability of accidents.

Removing 2,300 acres from agricultural land to commercial solar installations will reduce their opportunities for employment and reduce the potential for selling products to surrounding neighbors.

They often help others work the land and these opportunities are forever gone. There are no job opportunities on solar developments.

I have dearly loved the Amish and have great respect for their way of life. I felt it important to voice my concerns for my land, my neighbor's land and for the many ways in which this development adversely affects the Amish community of Barren County.

I ask that you deny this project for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doris Pedigo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" and "P".

Doris Pedigo  
327 Patterson Road  
Smiths Grove, KY 42171