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**AUG 22 2025**

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GRASS HAVEN FARMS  
1043 PATTERSON ROAD  
SMITHS GROVE, KY 42171**

July 21, 2025

Kentucky State Board on Electric Generation  
211 Sower Boulevard  
PO Box 615  
Frankfort, KY 40602

Re: Wood Duck Solar 2024-00337

Dear PSC,

First, I want to state that I am a third-generation farmer. I have been farming my entire life. I love farming and I love the land. Merry Oaks is my home and I have farmland that is almost adjacent to a participating farm.

I am going to guess that over my lifetime, I have received hundreds of post cards, letters and fliers from solar companies wanting to buy and/or lease my land. It is always a nuisance when they sent a registered letter because I don't have time for this disruption in my day. I may or may not read the letter, usually not. It is not a piece of mail that anyone takes seriously. It was just like all of the other letters.

Wood Duck sent two letters to my home, addressed to "Dear Neighbor." Well, that wasn't a personal greeting. Then they state "We are proposing..." That doesn't mean much to me either because I have heard this and read this before. Never did they state "We have been approved" and we are coming.

Wood Duck did not notify us of the meeting at the planning commission, or if they did, I sure missed it. Again, if it was a "Dear Neighbor" I would have given it as much credit as the hundreds of other letters I have received.

I learned of this project in our local paper in December 2023. I immediately called our County Judge Executive Jamie Byrd who did nothing but assure me it was a "done deal" and there was nothing she could do. I have lived with that false statement until just recently when I learned the PSC has to approve the project and we have a chance for our voices to be heard.

Recently, Wood Duck put an ad in the local paper about the PSC process, but for 2 years they have not shared this with the public. They did not present anything at either of the information meetings about the PSC process and the opportunity for public comment. I call that deceptive.

How our local planning commission decided the setbacks is an unknown except for the fact, our planning commissioner stated he was “tasked” to approve the project, so it seems he gave them everything they asked for at the expense of other property owner’s rights. Our community waved the state law setbacks to accommodate this project and that is concerning on many levels.

**My property is only one farm away from these panels.** It does not adjoin, but the water runoff and the increase heat will connect our farms. I will probably hear the hum of the panels and inverters. My crops may feel the increased heat and combined with corn humidity; I am concerned it will lower my yield. The germination of the seed with excessive heat could stunt the growth and ultimately my income source.

**My crops, which are sold commercially, could be damaged by glass shards and toxic runoff. My cattle, which are also sold commercially, could be endangered by glass shards and chemical leaks and leeching.**

If these panels catch on fire, there is a potential it can spread to my farm. We do not have adequate water supply lines in this area to combat an electrical fire of this temperature. Our water lines are only 4 inches in most of the project area and they should be at least 6. We ask the PSC to require Wood Duck and the Glasgow Water Company to correct this issue before moving forward. Barren County has a fire ordinance, but it appears it was not followed for some reason.

I am confident this development will lower my property’s value regardless of what any studies by Geenex’s paid consultants indicate. How can it be a valid study and state no impact. Talks with realtors and auctioneers who know this area, all indicate it will adversely affect the sale value.

My farm will be one door away from a fenced and gated commercial public utility... no longer a beautiful cropable farm. In the future, should I decide to quit farming, I won’t be able to develop my land for residential use because the utility company will be too close. No one wants to live next door to a commercial solar facility. We have a ‘right to landscape’ in an agricultural community. Commercial utility facilities do not belong in residential or agricultural communities as this mars the rural landscape and negatively affects the streetscape.

The “green energy” will destroy hundreds of acres of trees and displace wildlife. I believe this project, in the Critical Issues Study states it will destroy over 400 acres. It will damage the land and increase runoff.

If this is approved, the decommissioning plans should require the removal of top soil 12 inches deep and we need a really strong emergency plan to ensure the developer will respond when our area is hit with storms, wind, hail, etc. They also need to inspect the 2,300 acres regularly to ensure there is no damage or leaking. Mammoth Cave is depending on us to do this correct.

I am not anti-solar, but I am anti-solar on farm land and the risk it poses to real farms.

I am opposed to the setbacks approved by Barren County. They should be a minimum of 1,000 feet. I respectfully request that all road frontage be covered with native tree and shrub screens, set close together to conceal the panels.

I request that every product used from the solar panels, steel posts and fence, that they be made in the USA and that they are #1 in quality. Any deviation on the quality of supplies should not be accepted and every truck load should be inspected. All packaging materials should be recycled. Nothing should end up in the landfill.

Mammoth Cave has voiced concerns about contaminants and the underground water systems. As a farmer of 60 plus years, a retired business owner and a professional fence installer, I can state with certainty, there is no way to construct this project without a threat to the underground water; and any threat to our delicate ecosystem is unacceptable.

Wood Duck has proposed some mitigation, but what if their plan is wrong? It is simply too risky. We do not know what will be in the panels Wood Duck supplies. Solar panels contain various products including silicon, cadmium telluride, cooper, indium, gallium, silver, lead, arsenic, hexafluoroethane, polyvinyl fluoride and many unknowns.

We simply cannot take this risk to our cave, our livestock and our cropland. We do not need to destroy the planet to save the planet. The devastation this project will do in Barren County is unreparable as the transition to "green" is worse than the negative impacts of not transitioning.

The community was not aware of this project. Our voices have not been heard and I attended the information session at the convention center which was held AFTER the project was approved by our local planning commission. The community had zero impact on the project before it was approved.

The information meetings were simply an attempt to meet a requirement. It is irresponsible to think the public could voice dissention on a project that is already approved. Wood Duck had an answer for everything, but a solution for nothing. I spoke with several representatives and found no solutions or willingness to compromise for the good of the community. It was a waste of time to attend.

I ask that you deny this project and allow Barren County to stay with green pastures.

Respectfully,

J. David Pedigo

