

Public Comments Received for Case Number: 2024-00337
Response Thursday, October 2, 2025

Thank you for your comments. 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, 2024-00337 in any further correspondence.

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Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Received through Public Comments

Wednesday, October 1, 2025

From: Shaylin McGuire Rone
City: Glasgow
State: Kentucky
Zip: 42141

Comments:

I'm writing a comment on case 2024-00337 in protest of The Wood Duck Solar project. This project will cause irreversible harm to the land and the surrounding community. I have been an Environmental Engineer for a little over 11 years and have a degree in Environmental Science from WKU. I also work with many engineers and know many farmers who are wholeheartedly against using up mass amounts of land to build solar farms. While I believe in utilizing technological advancements like solar to power our grid, I am 100% against taking up precious land to do so. Once a solar farm is installed on this 2,300 acres, its useful life might be 15-20 years. Over time, the solar farm will begin to degrade. Many companies do not spend the time or money to upkeep their solar farms. Once these farms start to cost more and more money to maintain, the owners often completely abandon them in place. Abandoning a solar farm in place means that they are left to completely degrade and leach harmful chemicals into the ground rendering it useless. Additionally, since the panels are left up, the land cannot be used for anything else. To me, using up a resource as scarce as land to implement a project which should be done on commercial rooftops or other alternative spaces that are already in place makes no sense. You can't make more land. We don't need the land that we do have available to be taken up by something like solar when there are better options for integrating solar into our current infrastructure. We need our land to grow food on, period.

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Wednesday, October 1, 2025

From: James Haley
City: Park City
State: Kentucky
Zip: 42160

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the installation of solar panels on productive farmland. While renewable energy is important, solar panel projects on agricultural land are both inefficient and harmful for the long-term well-being of our communities.

First, solar panels are inefficient compared to other energy sources. They require vast amounts of land to generate modest amounts of electricity. Solar panels also lose efficiency when covered by dust, snow, or shade, and their power output fluctuates depending on weather and time of day. This unreliability forces us to continue relying on traditional power sources, making large solar farms less practical than they appear.

Second, farmland is a precious and limited resource. Agricultural land should be reserved for growing food, not converted into industrial energy projects. Covering fertile soil with glass and steel strips communities of the ability to produce local crops, threatens food security, and drives up prices for consumers. Once farmland is taken out of production, it is extremely difficult—sometimes impossible—to restore it to its original quality.

Additionally, solar panels come with hidden environmental costs. Their manufacturing process requires rare minerals and toxic chemicals, and their disposal at the end of their lifespan creates hazardous waste. Using farmland for solar installations shifts these problems onto rural communities, while providing little benefit in return.

If renewable energy expansion is necessary, solar projects should be directed toward alternative sites such as rooftops, parking lots, brownfields, or desert land that does not compete with food production. These locations make far more sense than sacrificing productive farmland for technology that is still limited in its efficiency and reliability.

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Wednesday, October 1, 2025

From: Darothy Haley
City: Park City
State: KY
Zip: 42160

Comments:

This is a complete waste of farmland. Solar panels have been proven to not be efficient.

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Wednesday, October 1, 2025

From: Judy Newman
City: Louisville
State: Ky
Zip: 40299

Comments:

I'm opposed to industrial solar on farmland. Please protect the cave!

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Wednesday, October 1, 2025

From: Jeremiah Johnson
City: Glasgow
State: Kentucky
Zip: 42141

Comments:

When the Mammoth Cave National Park system has already come forward and expressed the risks this project has toward a National Park, it makes zero sense that it would still be up for discussion. Our National Parks are Federally protected and an approval of this project would seem like an open and shut case for any and all Federal lawsuits against any individual moving this project forward. As a taxpayer, I'd rather not see my taxes tied up in litigation on a project that is detrimental to our community and local National landmark.

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Wednesday, October 1, 2025

From: Brent Langley
City: Bardstown
State: Kentucky
Zip: 40004

Comments:

Protect the Barren Co farmland. Protect Mammoth Cave and the Amiah water supply from Solar Pamel Farm pollution that comes with its construction

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Wednesday, October 1, 2025

From: Kristie Smith
City: Glasgow
State: Ky
Zip: 42141

Comments:

To the Commission,

I am a lifelong resident of Barren County. I am very concerned about the Wood Duck Project in Merry Oaks, Bon Ayr, Park City, and Railton Community, I have done extensive research on the effects of solar panels since learning about this. To be honest, they are very concerning!! There are over 83 underground springs in the property proposed for this. Some of them are directly over Mammoth Cave and there is a possibility of the chemicals leaking into the cave. Mammoth Cave is the longest known cave system in the world. It is under 52,830 acres in Edmonson, Hart, and Barren Counties. There are over 2 million people visit the cave per year. This generates 69.2 million dollars for Barren County. Can you imagine if in 3 years there is a leak of chemicals into the cave? What would happen then?

Also, per my research most solar farms are located away from residential areas. Not the Wood Duck Project. It is right in the middle of residential areas. There are lots of unknowns in this. Will it cause health effects for these people? What about the heat generated? Their property values will go down and they won't be able to afford to sell!!

My final concern is the fact that the Wood Duck Project will go on good useable farmland. There is only so much property in Barren County period. God won't make anymore!! Farming in Barren County is big! According to the Kentucky Dept of Agriculture Barren County ranks #1 in both beef and dairy farms!

I am afraid and worried for the state of our county if this project is approved! Not only for the Wood Duck project but for other projects to come..if this one is allowed!!

I urge you to please STOP this project immediately!! Our county's future depends on it~

Thank you for your time!

Kristie Smith

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Wednesday, October 1, 2025

From: CHELENE NIGHTINGALE
City: GLASGOW
State: Kentucky
Zip: 42141

Comments:

The Wood Duck Solar Farm deal in Barren County has created quite the disturbance in the community for many reasons including the fact residents were not informed until after the project was allegedly a "done deal" per the County Judge Executive Jamie Bewley Byrd. All residents should have been informed at the beginning stages of discussion.

Although citizens have the rights of their own property, when a venture poses risks and possible harm, especially to neighboring properties, the handful of property owners should not be able to dictate to the majority changes which may cause harm and devaluation of neighboring properties.

The Wood Duck Solar project should not be approved for reasons of lack of communication, legalities and risks.

Risks include several potential health issues. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), there is a health hazard of electromagnetic hypersensitivity associated with living near solar farms. This condition is characterized by a range of symptoms that are triggered by exposure to electromagnetic radiation fields. The symptoms include headaches, fatigue, skin rashes and sleep disturbances. Besides the WHO, a study in Australia discovered people living near solar farms were more likely to experience migraines, dizziness and nausea. Additionally, the study concluded an increased danger of cancer for those residing near solar farms.

Besides the health hazards, other negative effects for neighbors include noise and light pollution. Solar panels emit a humming noise which causes agitation for some people. Plus, the bright lights from the panels create sleep disruption for nearby neighbors.

The greatest concern, especially for Barren County due to the local cave systems, parks and wildlife, is the negative impact on ecosystems and animals. Sadly, panels kill small creatures and insects as the result of solar radiation. Clearing of land and installation of panels displaces wildlife and destroys vegetation. In fact, back in 2022, the Environmental Protection

Agency (EPA) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) fined four solar farms with more than one million dollars in penalties for polluting local waterways. An interesting side note the four solar farms sued by the Biden Administration were all subsidiaries of international finance and investment companies, like the Wood Duck project.

Although solar panels are considered “green energy”, the damage to both environment and living creatures currently are not worth the risks. According to an assistant professor of civil environmental engineering at Michigan State University, Annick Ancil, 80 percent of a solar panel's carbon footprint comes from the purification process of producing panels. Scientists purify sand into a crystalline silicon which requires the usage of a large amount of electricity. The panels can be damaged during weather storms but may last up to 30 years. The materials are not recycled so end up in landfills or remain unusable on land. In Barren County, where will the damaged panels end up? What will be the costs to area residents?

Other questions include, will the solar farmers, Barren County or the State of Kentucky pay for potential medical bills for neighbors harmed by solar? Will they pay for environmental damage? Will they pay for the loss of real estate value? What about solar farm emergencies like potential fires, will they pay for all the damage? If not, will they face potential legal consequences?

The community will be affected by the solar farms. All the risks should be evaluated and investigated further before any approval.

Thank you for your consideration to these matters.

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