

RECEIVED

JAN 30 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

PUBLIC SERVICE  
COMMISSION

I am writing concerning a proposed "solar farm" (Lost City Solar) of approximately 1400 acres in the Penrod community located in southern Muhlenberg County. I want to preface, that as a landowner (farmer), I support private property rights. At the same time however, I acknowledge that as a landowner, the activities I engage in on my property can, at times, have negative impacts on my neighbors and I must be a responsible landowner when engaging in activities that could potentially have such impacts. It is the possible negative impacts from the proposed solar facility on the property next door that has me concerned.

First off, the wholesale removal of nearly 1000 acres of forested land, and the subsequent leveling / grading of that ground, poses a major task to the company installing the solar facility to prevent soil runoff, silting, and turbidity in waterways downstream from the property. Two large waterways exit that property and eventually flow through our farm located downstream. I have concerns about possible impacts because, despite best efforts to control runoff, I do not believe that can be fully controlled when exposing that much ground to rainfall.

Secondly, many residents also have concerns about possible negative impact on neighboring property values. The majority of our residents live in the "countryside" to enjoy natural vistas of wooded hills and open fields. Local residents are concerned that, if the solar facility is constructed as proposed, the installation of security fence, solar panels, electrical transmission stations, etc. within such short distances (and in direct view in some cases) of local residences, that their property values will be negatively impacted. One property has already been sold because the owner decided he didn't want to be next to a solar facility and thus sold his property before the value potentially declined.

I acknowledge the need for clean, renewable energy. I do not however, see the value in destroying the environment to implement such. Our county has thousands of acres of old strip-mine land (both reclaimed and not reclaimed) that could be utilized for such facilities with much less impact to neighboring landowners. If the project is allowed to proceed, I would hope it would be with more safeguards / guidelines to minimize the potential negative impacts to adjacent landowners.

Sincerely,



Jay McElwain (Penrod, KY Resident / Landowner)

450 Bunch Ln

Dunmor, KY 42339