

Kentucky State Board on Electric Generation and Transmission Siting

211 Sower Boulevard

P.O. Box 615

Frankfort, KY 40602

Re: Case Number 2024-00255

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JUN 20 2025

**PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION**

Public Comment on behalf of the Starfire Community Coalition:

I'm writing on behalf of the **Starfire Community Coalition**, a group of residents and organizations from **Breathitt, Knott, Perry, and Floyd Counties** who have come together to learn more about how major development projects—like the **Starfire Renewable Power Project**—can bring long-term benefits to the people who live and work in the region.

We applaud BrightNight's interest in the Starfire Project being best-in-class, and we appreciate the steps **BrightNight Power** has already taken—particularly their stated commitments to local hiring and funding community-led initiatives. These are outlined in the informational meetings BrightNight conducted in our communities last year (see page 56 of the Siting Board Application), and we welcome their intention to donate annually to the **Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky** through a non-donor advised fund.

At the same time, we believe there is a unique opportunity here—for BrightNight and our communities—to explore a shared path forward using tools like a **Community Benefits Agreement (CBA)**. CBAs are voluntary agreements used across the country to ensure that community priorities are reflected in large-scale projects. They offer a transparent and collaborative structure for both developers and local stakeholders to define mutual goals.

Rather than taking a position for or against the Starfire Project at this time, the Coalition is focused on building a foundation of trust and dialogue. We invite **BrightNight** to join us in a learning process about CBAs—what they can look like, how they've worked in other communities, and how they might serve the unique context of **Appalachian Kentucky**.

We know from experience that strong, well-structured local hiring plans—like those supported by **Project Labor Agreements**—can help ensure commitments translate into outcomes. We're also interested in exploring emerging opportunities, like **agrivoltaics** (solar grazing), that could offer creative and sustainable local benefits.

As residents of a region that has seen many extractive industries come and go, we're hopeful that this project can be part of a different kind of story—one rooted in partnership, equity, and long-term community benefit.

We respectfully request that the **State Siting Board** not make their decision until the **August 1st deadline** to give our coalition, BrightNight, and other community stakeholders the time and space to explore this potential collaboration.

Thank you again for your time and consideration. We look forward to the conversations ahead.

Sincerely,

The Starfire Community Coalition

Contact: