Darla J. Decker 2853 Liletown Road Greensburg, Kentucky 42743

September 29, 2025

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

Re:

Exie Solar, LLC

PSC Case No. 2025-00151

RECEIVED

OCT 06 2025

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Dear Board:

Enclosed please find a copy of my personal comment narrative that was given during the local public comment hearing in Greensburg, Kentucky, in the above-referenced matter on September 24, 2025. I have also enclosed a copy of the map showing where I reside, marked as a neighborhood, within this project (Image Two). I have also enclosed a few other maps of neighborhoods as well within the 2,000 foot perimeter. We certainly appreciate your consideration of this matter.

It was a pleasure to meet you all and we are thankful that you came to our county to listen to concerns on this matter.

Sincerely,

Darla J. Decker

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**Enclosures** 

1) Health Issues - As we are all aware, there are numerous health concerns about living in close proximity to solar farms. The information provided to some of the persons in this project by Geronimo Power (aka Exie Solar, LLC) contain Third-Party Studies Assessing Environmental Health and Safety. These studies discuss Cadmium Telluride being present in the solar panels. Most of the studies reference words like less leachable, less toxic, not expected, minimal; however, they cannot and do not state that there is no risk. With the amount of Cadmium Telluride that is in each solar panel, based on the number of panels planned for this project, we stand to have significant amounts of carcinogenic materials affecting our land, water, and air. The China Peer Review provided states there is an average module breakage rate of .04% per year. There are 260,262 panels planned here, so on average we could see 104 panels broken per year. The North Carolina State University Executive Summary indicates 7 grams of cadmium in one CdTe panel. Apparently, this form of cadmium is 1/100th percent of the toxicity of free cadmium. Bear with me, if each panel has 7 grams of cadmium that equates to 7000 milligrams. A lethal dose of raw cadmium is 9 milligrams per square meter if inhaled for a few hours. Even with Cadmium Telluride being only 1/100th as toxic as raw cadmium, that is still extremely dangerous. Exposure to even a minute amount can cause all sorts of things like chronic kidney disease, impaired lung function, cancer, and organ failure. Again, this can be mostly eliminated by locating the project away from homes and people.

As I am sure you are aware, the Unbridled project, also by Geronimo Power in Henderson County, had an inverter fire last week. This is a prime example of how anyone living close by could be affected. If the news reported it correctly, fire personnel had to make two visits to the site and someone had to remain there for 24 hours. They did mention that only 3 or 4 people lived within a half mile – not a few hundred feet like they want us to do. Fortunately, this fire was detected fairly quickly. I hate to think what would happen to us if Exie Solar should have a similar issue. Placing the project within 200 feet of homes would no doubt be a disaster. A fire of this nature releases toxic substances, depending on the components of the inverter, that can cause various long-term health issues. Even minute amounts of those substances can be quite harmful. Our local fire departments are volunteer and while they are very well-trained personnel, a solar farm fire poses much different circumstances than the normal fires to which they are accustomed. The extra strain on our fire departments could be substantial.

One of the main issues I have personally is the location of the high voltage transmission line for this project. When I inquired of the Exie Solar representative as to where the

line would be placed, she stated "right along your fence." There have been ongoing studies for years regarding health problems associated with living near high voltage power lines. The one health issue from all the studies that is alarming is that of childhood leukemia. One study published in the British Columbia Medical Journal indicates that living within 200 meters (600 ft) has an increased risk of 69% and residing between 200 to 600 (1800 ft) meters of the lines has an increased risk of 23%. Epidemiological studies on electromagnetic fields and childhood leukemia show mixed results, but indicate the link to EMF exposure and the disease may have a 2.5 times greater risk than those further away. In addition, an Article from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences notes that the evidence is consistent across different continents, study types, measurement methods, etc. It indicates it is time that exposure to power frequency EMFs is recognized as a potential risk factor for childhood leukemia. We have a granddaughter that is currently in remission from childhood leukemia. I think it is a reasonable conclusion that if exposure can cause childhood leukemia, it could bring it out of remission. There is sufficient space on the properties already leased to arrange the transmission line, connection points to the existing grid line, the switchyard and substation away from homes. It really makes no sense to unreasonably subject homes to this part of the project.

Once you start taking a good look at the footprint of this project, you will see that large parts of it sit directly along and uphill from Greasy Creek. All run-off, even that with contamination, will all flow downhill straight into the creek. Greasy Creek flows into Little Barren River and on into Green River. Green is one of the most biodiverse rivers in the country. It contains endangered species, some of which are endemic to Green River. We live in the middle of the Green River watershed. With our streams filtering into the river, what happens here affects what happens downstream, including going through Mammoth Cave National Park. Protecting the ground water that feeds into the river is important for the survival of many of those species. While we acknowledge the need for renewable energy, we are extremely concerned that the risk to our ecosystem far outweighs any potential benefit.

## 2) Setbacks

In the application that Exie Solar filed with the PSC, they identified no residential neighborhoods on the interior of the actual project footprint. They identified two residential neighborhoods within the 2000 foot setback area that barely border that area. A review of the map marking the residential neighborhoods and structures appears to be lacking. There are a few of us that have homes that are situated right in

the middle of the project. In fact, we are referred to as an island. We are basically surrounded.

A "Residential Neighborhood" is defined as a populated area of five (5) or more acres containing at least one (1) residential structure per acre; 5 acres/5 houses. The statutory setback for residential neighborhoods is 2,000 feet from the project plan. Using the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet solar suitability tool, we took a look at our neighborhood. While it was not marked on any map as such by Exie Solar, LLC, we were able to find that we actually do qualify as a Residential Neighborhood, so with four additional areas. We will submit our maps to the Board under separate cover. Accordingly, we respectfully request that those areas be identified as such for this project and that we be afforded the 2000 foot setback provided to us by statute.

I find it hard to believe that our legislature did not intend to provide some protection via the 1000 foot setback to all people. It doesn't make sense to limit the statutory protection based on who is purchasing the power. Perhaps they will address that during the next session.

It is concerning that every application filed with the PSC by these merchant power companies always seeks to deviate from the statutory setbacks. They can always come up with some reason why they should be allowed to encroach upon homes and neighborhoods. My favorite of which is you've done it before and now you have to do it again. As I am sure you know, you don't have to do it just because you did previously. Each case should be decided individually and we request that you please give this issue the much needed attention it deserves. I thank you for doing that and providing us with the distance we all need to live safely.

## Proposed Site and 2-Mile Radius Image 1 Image 2 Image 3 Image 4 **Exie Solar Project** Amesontal Parigras chased Green County, hentacky Later Mentage Latel 21889-Fried September Nan-Ferti gwiling There are no schools, process parks, hospitals, or nursing harve facilities within a 2-vote radius of the proposed fix they A James World Armer Pure query Trope I Area EDR\_







