

Public Comments Received for Case Number: 2025-00177
Response Tuesday, March 3, 2026

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, 2025-00177 in any further correspondence.

The documents in this case are available at: [View Case Filings for: 2025-00177 \(ky.gov\)](#).

Received through Public Comments

Monday, March 2, 2026

From: Seth Cowan
City: Alpha
State: KY
Zip: 42603

Comments:

I am writing to formally oppose the proposed 307-acre solar installation near my home in rural Kentucky.

While I understand the importance of renewable energy, this project must be evaluated in the broader context of agriculture, wildlife conservation, and the long-term sustainability of our rural communities.

1. America's Cattle Herd Is at a 70-Year Low

According to recent USDA data, the U.S. cattle herd is at its lowest level in roughly 70 years. At a time when domestic food production is already strained, converting hundreds of acres of viable farmland into industrial solar infrastructure further reduces the land base available for cattle grazing and agricultural use.

Kentucky has a strong agricultural heritage, and our rural economy depends heavily on livestock production. Taking productive ground out of agriculture for decades at a time directly conflicts with the need to stabilize and rebuild the national and regional cattle herd. Once farmland is converted and fenced for industrial use, it is not easily returned to full agricultural productivity.

2. Bald Eagles Are Protected and Prominent in This Area

Bald eagles are a protected species under federal law, including the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Our area has an established presence of bald eagles, and their nesting and hunting patterns rely on open landscapes, water sources, and undisturbed habitat.

Large-scale solar arrays can alter flight paths, reduce available hunting grounds, and increase disturbance during construction. Even indirect impacts — such as habitat fragmentation or increased human activity — can disrupt nesting behavior. Any project in an area where bald eagles are prominent must undergo serious ecological review to ensure compliance with federal wildlife protections and to prevent unintended harm to this iconic and protected

species.

3. Declining White Deer Population

The white-tailed deer population in our area has already shown signs of decline in recent years. Habitat fragmentation is one of the leading causes of wildlife reduction. A 307-acre fenced and industrialized solar facility would further disrupt migration routes, reduce feeding grounds, and fragment existing habitat.

Rural Kentucky depends on balanced wildlife populations — not only for ecological health but also for hunting traditions and local economic activity tied to outdoor recreation. Removing large tracts of connected habitat places additional pressure on already stressed wildlife populations.

Conclusion

This proposal is not simply about renewable energy — it is about land use priorities, food production, wildlife conservation, and preserving the rural character of our community. With the national cattle herd already at historic lows, protected bald eagles present in the area, and a declining deer population, converting 307 acres of rural land to industrial use is not a decision that should be taken lightly.

I respectfully request that this project be denied or significantly reconsidered with full consideration of its agricultural and ecological consequences.

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