From: PSC Public Comment
To: "Matthew Benedict"
Subject: RE: Case No 2026-00180
Date: Monday, November 2, 2026 8:32:00 AM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png

Case No. 2026-00180

Thank you for your comments on the application of STMO Bn, LLC (Starfire). 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, 2026-00180 in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at View Case Filings for: 2026-00180 (ky.gov).

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

From: Matthew Benedict [redacted]
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2026 12:44 PM
To: PSC Public Comment <PSC.Comment@ky.gov>
Subject: Case No 2026-00180

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Case No 2026-00180

https://psc.ky.gov/pscscf/2026%20cases/2026-00180//20261027_PSC%20Notice%20of%20Filing%20of%20Public%20Comment%20Meeting%20Sign%20In%20Attendance%20List%20-%20October%2023,%202026.pdf

The public comments listed are incomplete- please add the full comments to the docket as attached.

-Matthew Benedict

https://linktr.ee/starfirecommunitycoalition

420 Main Street, Hazard, KY 41701

Matthew Benedict

AmeriCorps VISTA
he/they/any

Office: (606) 439-1357

CELL: [redacted]

EMAIL: matthew@appalachianky.org

Public Service Commission
Siting Board on Electrical Generation and Transmission
Starfire II
Case Number: 2026-00180
Public Comment Hearing
October 23rd, 2026
5pm - Perry County Court House

The following comments are on behalf of the Starfire Community Coalition.

In April of 2025, our coalition was founded by the Breathitt, Knott, Floyd, and Perry County Community Foundations with the goal of reaching a community benefits agreement on the Starfire Solar project. Since then our coalition has grown to include the Southeast Kentucky Sheep Producers Association, and local labor unions of the laborers, operators, carpenters and millwrights.

While our coalition has had several fruitful conversations with BrightNight Power, there remain several uncertainties surrounding local jobs, solar grazing, a fair community fund commitment, and environmental concerns. We have appreciated the time BrightNight Power dedicated in August of this year to speak with our coalition, and are looking forward to more discussions around how these community benefits can be assured.

However, **we urge the Kentucky State Siting Board on Electrical Generation and Transmission to condition their approval of Starfire Phase II with a provision that BrightNight Power negotiate a legally binding contract with the organizations of our coalition that details plans for solar grazing, local hiring, community fund payments, community oversight, and a system for dispute resolution over the course of the project's entirety.**

This ask is not made due to any ill will or mistrust of BrightNight Power, it is simply asked because our coalition believes in the principle of accountability. This region has been exploited by developers before, and although BrightNight Power shows no signs of doing the same, some assurance that a mutually defined good-faith plan for community benefits will be created is the kind of accountability our coalition is looking for.

Preferably, proof of such a negotiated plan should submitted to the Public Service Commission 8 months prior to construction, lest the conditional approval be revoked

The Siting Board has authority for conditioning its approval on community economic benefits. KRS 278.710(1)(c) identifies regional economic impacts as a key criteria. The Board has both conditioned approvals on such local impacts and revoked approvals that failed to meet

conditions. For example, when the Board approved Estill County Energy Partners's application at No. 2002-00172, it was conditioned on, among other things, "reasonable efforts to hire workers, vendors, and contractors from the local area." *In re Estill County Energy Partners*, No. 2002-00172, App'x A(H) (Oct. 12, 2004). Ultimately, the Board revoked its approval due to (other) conditions not being met. *See* Order, No. 2002-00172 (May 5, 2014). The Siting Board thus is justified here in conditioning its approval on the economic impact on the affected region, including requiring a negotiated contract for community benefit.

I greatly appreciate the opportunity to speak, thank you for hosting this public comment hearing.

Andy Beshear
Governor

John Lyons
Secretary
Energy and Environment Cabinet

Commonwealth of Kentucky
Kentucky State Board on Electric Generation and Transmission Siting
211 Sower Blvd.
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-8294
Telephone: (502) 564-3940
psc.ky.gov

Angie Hatton
Chair

October 27, 2026

PARTIES OF RECORD

Re: Case No. 2026-00180

Notice is given to all parties that the attached attendance list for Public Comments Meeting of October 23, 2026, has been filed into the record of this proceeding.

If you have any comments you would like to make regarding the contents of the document, please do so within five days of receipt of this letter. If you have any questions, please contact Nicole Carr, Staff Attorney, at (502) 564-3940.

Sincerely,

Justin McNeil
Executive Director
On behalf of
The Kentucky State Board on Electric Generation and Transmission Siting

cc: Parties of Record

Public Comments Hearing: Case No. 2026-00180 STMO, Bn
Friday, October 23, 2026
Perry County Fiscal Courthouse, 481 Main Street, Hazard, KY 41701

	PRINT NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	Provide Comments Y/N
1	William Madden	[redacted] Happy Ky. 41746	Happy	Y
2	Katie Eckert	325 [redacted] Lexington KY 40507		N
3	Steve Allen	[redacted] Bird Ln. 1	Pikeville	N
4	Matthew Benedict	[redacted] Main St Hazard KY 41701	Hazard	Y
5	Brian Patton	240 [redacted] Rd Stacyville Ky		N
6	Jacqui Kitchen	471 W [redacted] Florida	West Palm	N
7	Zack Hall	[redacted]	Hazard	N
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Public Comments Hearing: Case No. 2026-00180 STMO, Bn
Friday, October 23, 2026
Perry County Fiscal Courthouse, 481 Main Street, Hazard, KY 41701

	PRINT NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	Provide Comments Y/N
61	Philip MARSH	[redacted] Rideamont Rd	Harrodsburg, KY	Y
62	Noah Edelen	[redacted] EAST MAIN	LEX K	N
63	NATHAN CRYDER	[redacted] MAIN ST.	LEX, KY	Y
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Public Service Commission
Siting Board on Electrical Generation and Transmission
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Service List for Case 2026-00180

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