



Andy Beshear
Governor

Kent A. Chandler
Chairman

Rebecca W. Goodman
Secretary
Energy and Environment Cabinet

Commonwealth of Kentucky
Public Service Commission
211 Sower Blvd.
P.O. Box 615
Frankfort, Kentucky 40602-0615
Telephone: (502) 564-3940
Fax: (502) 564-3460
psc.ky.gov

Mary Pat Regan
Commissioner

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Linda Bridwell
502.782.2560

Siting Board Conditionally Approves Solar Project for Harrison County

FRANKFORT, Ky. (August 3, 2022) – The Kentucky State Board on Electric Generation and Transmission Siting (Siting Board) has approved, with modifications and conditions, an application from Bluebird Solar, LLC, to construct a 100 megawatt (MW) solar facility on approximately 1,345 acres in Harrison County, Kentucky.

Bluebird Solar filed an application, including the required Site Assessment Report, on Feb. 4, 2022. The Siting Board conducted a site visit on April 12, 2022, and a formal hearing on June 2, 2022. There were no intervenors in this case.

As authorized by statute, the Siting Board retained a consultant to review Bluebird Solar's Site Assessment Report and proposed mitigation measures. The Site Assessment Report must contain a detailed site description of the proposed facility, as well as potential impacts to surrounding property both during construction and operation post-construction. The Siting Board must also consider the following criteria in making a decision:

- Economic impact on the affected region and state;
- Existence of other generation facilities;
- Local planning and zoning requirements;
- Potential impact on the electricity transmission system;
- Compliance with statutory setback requirements; and
- History of environmental compliance

The construction phase of the project will require approximately 213 temporary full-time jobs. Two to three individuals will be employed during the estimated 30-year operational phase of the project. Based on the review of the evidence provided in the case, the Siting Board has determined the solar project will generally have a positive economic impact in the region.

Setbacks of generating equipment are established by local planning and zoning laws, but the Siting Board set additional distances between panels and residences. Any agreements by participating landowners to lesser setbacks must be filed with the Siting Board before project construction begins. Setbacks from any noise-emitting facilities during the operational phase of the project are also specified in the Order.

-MORE-

To minimize impacts both the construction and operational phases of the proposed solar facility, Bluebird Solar must comply with several mitigation measures and conditions. These include:

- Measures to minimize visual impacts, such as maintaining, as practicable, existing vegetation between the solar facility and nearby roadways and homes and planting and maintaining native evergreen species as a visual buffer.
- Measures to control noise by deploying noise suppression methods during construction as necessary.
- Measures to minimize impacts to roads, including developing a traffic management plan and complying with all state and local state and local road permit, truck weight, and other requirements.

While Harrison County has provisions in a Conditional Use Permit regarding setbacks and other mitigation measures, the Siting Board is requiring the project to comply with measures that are more protective, including plans for decommissioning. As the Siting Board has required in all cases, Bluebird Solar must file a full decommissioning plan that commits the applicant to removing all solar facility components, above and below ground plan at the end of the project life. This plan must be completed at least one month before construction begins. Bluebird must file a bond equal to the amount necessary to carry out the decommissioning plan, naming Harrison County as beneficiary. The bond amount shall be reviewed every five years at Bluebird Solar's expense to provide any updates to the cost of decommissioning.

The Siting Board found that Bluebird Solar met the requirements of KRS 278.710(1) so long as the company complies with these mitigation measures and conditions. Appendix A of today's Order provides a complete list and additional details on all of the required mitigation measures and conditions.

The Siting Board members consists of the three members of the Public Service Commission, the secretary of the Kentucky Energy and Environmental Cabinet or a designee, the secretary of the Kentucky Economic Development Cabinet or a designee, and for specific cases, the county judge or chair of local planning and zoning (if applicable), and a local member appointed by the governor. The local members for the Bluebird Solar case are Daryl Northcutt, Chairman of the county planning commission, and Greg Coulson of Harrison County. The chairman of the PSC serves as chairman of the Siting Board.

The Siting Board is headquartered at the PSC and PSC staff also serves as staff to the Siting Board. The Siting Board's operations are funded through fees paid by applicants. The complete application, a description of the review process, mitigation measures and conditions, public comments, and other case filings are available at <https://psc.ky.gov/Case/ViewCaseFilings/2021-00141>.

-END-