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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Siting Board Approves 200-MW Solar Project Proposed for Martin County**

**FRANKFORT, Ky. (Nov. 15, 2021)** – The Kentucky State Board on Electric Generation and Transmission Siting (Siting Board) has approved, with modifications and conditions, an application from Martin County Solar Project, LLC (Martin County Solar), to construct a 200-megawatt (MW) solar facility in Martin County, Kentucky. The proposed 2,541-acre site is near Pilgrim, Kentucky, on a reclaimed coal mine.

Martin County Solar is based in Kansas City, MO. The proposed project will interconnect to a transmission line owned by Kentucky Power and power from the project is expected to be sold into the regional wholesale market operated by PJM Interconnection.

Martin County Solar submitted its application, including the required Site Assessment Report, on May 19, 2021. Martin County Solar published notice of the proposed facility in the local newspaper and notified landowners whose property borders the proposed facility. As required by statute, Martin County Solar conducted public outreach prior to filing its application, including a virtual public meeting on Feb. 10, 2021.

The Siting Board conducted a site visit on Aug. 24, 2021, and a formal evidentiary hearing on Sept. 28, 2021. The Siting Board received no public comments in this case.

As authorized by statute, the Siting Board retained a consultant to review Martin County Solar's Site Assessment Report and proposed mitigation measures. The Site Assessment Report, per statute, 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. In addition to evaluation of the factors contained in the Site Assessment Report, KRS 278.710(1) directs the Siting Board to 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

Martin County Solar estimates approximately 180 full-time employees will be hired during the 12- to 18-month construction phase of the project. Based on the review of the evidence provided in the case, the Siting Board has determined the solar project will have a positive economic impact in the region.

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The Siting Board has authorized a deviation from the 2,000 feet statutory setback requirements, with setback requirements from adjoining neighborhoods and setbacks from noise-emitting facility equipment as specified in the Order.

Among the conditions and mitigation measures, Martin County Solar must:

- Submit for review a final site layout plan upon its completion, with changes in proposed project boundaries and location of solar facility equipment clearly indicated;
- Provide final project-specific construction schedule;
- Coordinate with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources to notify hunters that access to the site will no longer be allowed;
- Maintain, as practicable, existing vegetation between solar arrays and nearby roadways and homes;
- Assess the feasibility of a screening plan to protect the neighboring residents' viewshed;
- Develop a traffic management plan to minimize impacts and ensure safety and compliance with state and local road permit, truck weight, and other requirements;
- Limit construction activity to the hours between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday;
- Within one month prior to the start of construction, notify residents and businesses within 2,400 feet of the project boundary regarding the construction plan, the noise potential, and mitigation measures;
- Implement a Customer Resolution Program;
- File its full decommissioning plan with the Siting Board. The decommissioning plan must be completed at least one month before construction begins and must commit the applicant to removing all solar facility components, above and below ground (regardless of depth);
- File a bond equal to the amount necessary to carry out the decommissioning plan, naming Martin County as a beneficiary. The bond amount shall be reviewed every five years at Martin County Solar's expense to provide any updates to the cost of decommissioning;
- Provide to the Siting Board and Martin County Fiscal Court any transfers of ownership or control of the project; and
- Follow applicable laws regarding disposal or recycling of facility equipment during operations or decommissioning.

More details on mitigation measures and conditions are contained in an appendix to today's Order. The Siting Board found that Martin County Solar met the requirements of KRS 278.710(1) so long as Martin County Solar complies with these 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 Martin County Solar case are Victor Slone, Martin County Judge Executive, and Ryan Wilson. 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/2021-00029>.

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