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NEWS RELEASE

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Siting Board Approves 96-Megawatt Solar Project Proposed for Marion County

FRANKFORT, Ky. (June 21, 2021) – The Kentucky State Board on Electric Generation and Transmission Siting (Siting Board) has approved, with modifications and conditions, an application from Northern Bobwhite Solar, LLC (Northern Bobwhite) to construct a 96-megawatt (MW) solar energy project in Marion County. The proposed facility is on a 1,700-acre site north of Lebanon in Marion County. The site has been in agricultural use.

Northern Bobwhite is a limited liability company based in Kentucky with a principal place of business in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Northern Bobwhite is a subsidiary of EDF Renewables Development, Inc. The solar facility will sell power into the regional wholesale electricity market operated by PJM Interconnection, LLC, interconnecting to an existing substation adjacent to the project.

The Siting Board, created in 2002 by the Kentucky General Assembly, reviews applications for the construction of electric generating facilities of 10MW or greater proposed by merchant generators. Merchant generators sell the electricity they produce in the wholesale market at rates not regulated by the Public Service Commission (PSC).

Northern Bobwhite submitted its application, including the required Site Assessment Report, on December 22, 2020. As required by statute, Northern Bobwhite conducted public outreach prior to filing its application and notified all neighboring landowners informing them about the project. There were no requests for intervention and no requests for a public meeting or local public hearing. A formal evidentiary hearing was conducted on May 4, 2021.

As authorized by statute, the Siting Board retained a consultant to review Northern Bobwhite'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;

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- Compliance with statutory setback requirements; and
- History of environmental compliance.

Northern Bobwhite estimates approximately 200 employees will be hired during the approximately year-long construction phase of the project. During the operations phase, the project will employ two full-time positions.

A final design of the project has not been completed; therefore, the Siting Board requires Northern Bobwhite to submit for the Board's review a final site layout plan upon completion of the final site design, with deviations from the preliminary site layout plan clearly indicated. Those changes are to include location of solar panels, inverters, transformers, substation, operations and maintenance building or other project facilities and infrastructure, as well as any changes in the project boundaries. Northern Bobwhite must also submit a final project-specific construction schedule, including revised estimates of on-site workers and commuter vehicle traffic for Siting Board review.

In addition to the requirements regarding final project design, the Siting Board conditions its approval upon the full implementation of mitigation measures and conditions, including:

- Retaining, as practicable, existing vegetation between the solar arrays and the residences to reduce visual impacts from nearby homes and roadways.
- Working with nearby residents to address glare impacts from solar panels;
- Developing a traffic management plan to minimize impacts and ensure safety and compliance with state and local road permit, truck weight, and other requirements;
- Establishing a regular construction schedule, with hours between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday;
- Notifying residents and businesses within 2,400 feet of the project boundary about the construction plan, the noise potential, and the mitigation plans at least one month prior to the start of construction;
- Remaining in contact with nearby residents to confirm that noise levels are not unduly high or annoying after the pounding and placement of the solar panel racking begins, and mitigating noise impacts as necessary;
- Implementing a Customer Resolution Program to address any complaints from surrounding residents;
- Establishing setbacks for solar equipment from roads and property lines, with increased setbacks for certain equipment, and additional setbacks from the non-participating residential homes that are located relatively close to property lines (specific setbacks are provided in the Final Order);
- Following Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) guidelines for determining whether there could be glare issues affecting the nearby small municipal airport;
- Avoiding as practicable impacts to wetlands and jurisdictional waters during construction and operation and preventing impacts to any threatened and endangered species during construction;
- Developing decommissioning and land restoration plans and submitting the decommissioning plan to the Siting Board one month prior to the start of construction;
- Filing a bond, equal to the amount necessary for decommissioning, and naming Marion County as a third-party beneficiary, so that Marion County will have the authority to draw upon the bond upon decommissioning. The bond amount shall be reviewed every five years at Northern Bobwhite's expense to determine and update the cost of removal amount.

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For a complete description of the review process, mitigation measures and conditions, and other case filings, please visit the Siting Board at <https://psc.ky.gov/Case/ViewCaseFilings/2020-00208>. The Case No. is 2020-00208.

The Siting Board consists of the three members of the PSC, the secretary of the Kentucky Energy and Environmental Cabinet or a designee, the secretary of the Kentucky Economic Development Cabinet or a designee and two local members appointed by the governor to serve for a specific case. The chairman of the PSC serves as chairman of the Siting Board.

The two local members for the Northern Bobwhite case are David Daugherty, Marion County Judge/Executive, and Connie Rakes, Marion County.

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.

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