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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Siting Board Approves 160-Megawatt Solar Project Proposed for Henderson and Webster Counties**

**FRANKFORT Ky (June 4, 2021)**—The Kentucky Electric Generation and Transmission Siting Board has approved, with modifications and conditions, an application from Unbridled Solar, LLC (Unbridled Solar), to construct a 160-megawatt (MW) solar facility and a related 161-kilovolt transmission line on 1,680 combined acres on connected properties in Henderson and Webster counties between the towns of Sebree and Robards, Kentucky.

Unbridled Solar is a limited liability company, incorporated in Delaware with a principal place of business in Bloomington, Minnesota. The project will sell power into the regional wholesale electricity market operated by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. (MISO) and to Big Rivers Electric Corporation (BREC) to support terms of a purchase power agreement approved by the Public Service Commission (PSC) in a separate proceeding (Case No. 2020-00183). The proposed transmission line will connect to the Reid Substation of BREC.

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 PSC.

Unbridled Solar submitted its application, including the required Site Assessment Report, on December 8, 2020. As required by statute, Unbridled Solar conducted public outreach prior to filing its application and published notice of the proposed facility in the local newspaper. Unbridled Solar also notified 63 landowners whose property borders the proposed facility. There were no intervention requests or requests for a public meeting or local public hearing. A formal evidentiary hearing was conducted on April 8, 2021.

As authorized by statute, the Siting Board retained a consultant to review Unbridled 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;

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- Potential impact on the electricity transmission system;
- Compliance with statutory setback requirements; and
- History of environmental compliance.

Unbridled Solar estimates around 130 positions, mostly craft workers and contractors, will be employed during the construction phase of the project. The operations phase will require five employees. 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.

Henderson County has local planning and zoning and enacted an ordinance that contains solar facility setback requirements, screening and vegetative buffers, height restrictions, and requirements for decommissioning. The Henderson County Planning Commission approved Unbridled Solar's site plan on May 4, 2021. While Webster County does not have a similar ordinance, today's Order requires Unbridled Solar to meet the Henderson Ordinance provisions for the portion of the project located in Webster County. The Order requires Unbridled Solar to maintain compliance with the Henderson Ordinance provisions throughout the entirety of the construction and operations phases of the project. These requirements include the plans for decommissioning, which must be filed with the Siting Board.

The Siting Board conditions its approval upon the full implementation of mitigation measures and conditions, including:

- Adhering to the vegetation screening plan and ensuring vegetative buffers are successfully established;
- Placing high voltage warning signs along the perimeter of the site and at all entrances and controlling access to the site during construction and operation;
- Applying best management practices to control dust;
- Developing a traffic management plan to minimize impacts and ensure safety and compliance with state and local road permit, truck weight, and other requirements;
- Remaining in contact with nearby residents to ensure noise levels are not unduly high and notifying residents of homes within 500 feet in advance of any pile driving activity;
- Establishing a regular construction schedule, with hours between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday;
- Implementing a Customer Resolution Program to address any complaints from surrounding properties; and
- Determining, in coordination with landowners leasing land to Unbridled Solar for the transmission, whether mitigation measures are needed to reduce visual impact.

More details on mitigation measures and conditions are contained in an appendix to today's Order.

The Siting Board consists of the three members of the PSC, the secretary of Kentucky Energy and Environmental Cabinet (EEC) or a designee, the secretary of the Kentucky Economic Development Cabinet (CED) 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 local members in this case are Brad Schneider, Henderson County Judge Executive, and Thomas P. Glover, of Webster County.

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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.

For a complete description of the review process, mitigation measures and conditions, public comments, and other case filings, please visit the Siting Board at <https://psc.ky.gov/Case/ViewCaseFilings/2020-00242>. The Case No. is 2020-00242.

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