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NEWS RELEASE

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Siting Board Approves 80-MW Solar Project Proposed for Fleming County

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Nov. 24, 2021) – The Kentucky State Board on Electric Generation and Transmission Siting (Siting Board) has approved, with modifications and conditions, an application from Fleming Solar, LLC, to construct an 80-megawatt (MW) solar facility in Fleming County, Kentucky. The proposed 830-acre site is located northwest of the city of Flemingsburg on land that has historically been in agricultural use.

Fleming Solar is a subsidiary of Core Solar LLC, based in Austin, TX. The proposed project will interconnect to East Kentucky Power Cooperative's existing Flemingsburg-Spurlock 138-kV line that crosses the site. Power from the project is expected to be sold into the regional wholesale market operated by PJM Interconnection, Inc.

Fleming Solar submitted its application, including the required Site Assessment Report, on May 28, 2021. Fleming Solar published notice of the proposed facility in the local newspaper and notified landowners whose property borders the proposed facility. As required by statute, Fleming Solar conducted public outreach prior to filing its application, including a virtual public meeting conducted on Dec. 11, 2020. Fleming Solar conducted a second public meeting on March 25, 2021, following its decision to expand the project site's boundary.

The Siting Board conducted a site visit on July 28, 2021, and a formal hearing on Sept. 29. The Siting Board received several public comments; however, there were no requests for intervention.

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

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Siting Board Approves 80-MW Solar Project Proposed for Fleming County, page 2

Fleming Solar estimates a direct impact of up to 62 full-time equivalent workers (FTE) in Fleming County during the 12- to 15-month construction phase of the project and approximately 6.6 FTE jobs to support operations over the 25- to 35-year project life. 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.

The Siting Board has authorized a deviation from the 2,000 feet statutory setback requirements, contingent upon Fleming Solar placing generation equipment no closer than 300 feet from any home in six neighborhoods that are within 2,000 feet of the site boundary. Setbacks from any proposed noise-emitting facilities are specified in the Order.

Among the conditions and mitigation measures, Fleming 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 a final project-specific construction schedule;
- Maintain, as practicable, existing vegetation between solar arrays and nearby roadways and homes;
- Plant native evergreen species as a visual buffer, particularly in adjacent areas that currently do not have vegetation;
- Cultivate at least six acres of pollinator-friendly species onsite;
- 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 and deliveries to the hours between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 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;
- Deploy noise suppression methods during pile driving activity that occurs within 1,500 feet of a residence or other noise-sensitive receptor;
- 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 Fleming County as a beneficiary. The bond amount shall be reviewed every five years at Fleming Solar's expense to provide any updates to the cost of decommissioning;
- Provide to the Siting Board and Fleming 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 Fleming Solar met the requirements of KRS 278.710(1) so long as Fleming 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 are Larry Foxworthy, Fleming County Judge Executive, and John Price. The chairman of the PSC serves as chairman of the Siting Board.

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Siting Board Approves 80-MW Solar Project Proposed for Fleming County, page 3

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/2020-00370>.

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