

Residents prepare for Public Hearing opposing the Wood Duck Solar Project

Submitted by
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The Public Service Commission has rescheduled the public hearing for Tuesday, July 15, 2025 at 5:00 p. CST at the Barren County Fiscal Court meeting room.

Opponents requested a new date because the PSC failed to provide 20 days advance notice as stipulated in policy.

Opponents are asking the public to attend to hear and speak about the Wood Duck Solar Project which is pending approval at the state level.

The project encompasses 2,200 acres of farm land and meanders through four communities in Barren County and near the Edmonson County line.

Only 12-15 landowners have signed leases to participate in the development, converting their farm land to commercial public utility companies.

David Hawkins, an adjoining property owner who decided not to participate in the solar development plans to speak at the hearing.

"It is important for citizens of Barren County to attend and learn more about the many negative impacts of this solar project on the communities in which it is being located."

Opponents say this is the only public hearing relating to this project because it was approved by Barren County Planning Commission without notification to the public.

Local residents did not have an opportunity to voice their concerns before it was approved and have mounted an aggressive campaign to stop the project.

Last week opponents submitted over 300

names on petitions, over 50 letters which were sent to County Judge Executive Jamie Byrd asking her to listen to the community and stop the project and 15 additional letters to the Public Service Commission and Siting Board, bringing the total of personal letters to over 30 filed at the PSC.

The petition design was approved by the Public Service Commission and it allows the signor to enter the date they heard about the solar project and the opportunity to choose six categories of concern including health, environmental, zoning, property values, safety, etc.

The last column allows the signor to state if the project will adversely affect his/her life. The design includes definitions for each column, so the petitions clearly indicate the concerns of each person who has read and signed.

This is the first batch of letters and signatures and advocates will continue collecting support until the public participation period closes in October.

In April 2025, Mammoth Cave issued a letter in opposition to the project and the community has rallied support for the Cave, many having just learned that the Little Sinking Creek is a federally protected watershed and the underground water from the proposed project area flows to the cave.

Opponents have examined issues relating to the chemicals that are encapsulated inside a panel and the potential for environmental contaminants.

"Wood Duck Solar does not own any of the land in the proposed project, so for the safety of the well-water

supply to our Amish communities, for the safety of the cave water and inhabitants, and the safety of the water which flows to Green River which is the water source for several of our adjoining counties, we believe this project is in the wrong place" said Pedigo.

The hearing is open to the public. Residents are encouraged to arrive early for parking and entrance to the building.

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