Photo | Damon Stone, JPI

Paula Pedigo is the

## **SOLAR**, Continued from Page A12

between the decommissioning plan submitted to the PSC siting board and the plan submitted with the Barren County Clerk's office.

Some of those discrepancies, Matney said, include one having listed a time frame and one does not, as well as who would be responsible for the decommissioning, with one plan stating Wood Duck and the other making reference to the tenants (landowners) as potentially being the responsible party.

Matney expressed that an accurate decommission plan is crucial for transparency, but that Barren County would have no control over Wood Duck, with them being able to leave the county and landowners with a new entity, along with tangible financial risk.

David Hawkins, who currently resides in Munfordville, Kentucky and has worked for 50 years with connections to Barren County, explained that the financial risk to the county will directly affect people.

Hawkins cited that a study, sponsored by Geenex, that claims there would be no impact on the value of properties nearby, but an independent study revealed the arrival of a solar farm would lead to an approximately 8.7% reduction for homes within the one mile, relative to similar homes further away.

"We find evidence that local housing market activity declines after a solar farm becomes operational," Hawkins read from the report. "The number of homes sold in the nearby area falls by roughly 6%, suggesting reduced housing liquidity in the vicinity of the new solar facility."

Hawkins also echoed findings by other speakers that Wood Duck Solar is not a corporation with "decades of local ties," along with substantial diversified assets, being known as a "special purpose vehicle or shell corporation," being created for the sole purpose of creating the solar farm.

David Pedigo spoke at the meeting as

well, citing an alternative to the location near farmland and above Mammoth Cave, such as defunct coal mines, or wastelands, that have been contaminated that nothing else can grow there, allowing the lands to once again produce energy.

He cited that his farmland had been getting several offers from solar companies, despite it being used as a farm, and that he would want such projects to move to lands that have limited use and would not be disruptive to communities.

The full meeting can be found online at https://youtu.be/ CWGh2-pS5yE, or by looking up Wood **Duck Solar Glasgow** Kentucky into the YouTube search bar.

The next hearing, which is an evidentiary hearing, will be held on October 2, and if anyone wants to send public comments, they can be sent to psc. comment@ky.gov, referencing the case number 2024-00337, with their office being at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601.

◆ Photo | Damon Stone, JPI **David Hawkins** explained the financial impact that such a plant would have on the housing market, citing an approximately 8.7% reduction for homes within the one mile. "We find evidence that local housing market activity declines after a solar farm becomes operational," Hawkins read from the report. "The number of homes sold in the nearby area falls by roughly 6%, suggesting reduced housing liquidity in the vicinity of the new solar facility."

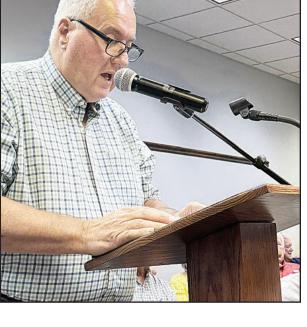


Photo | Damon Stone, JPI **Avery Matney owns** property conjoining the proposed site, and explained that should Wood Duck sell the site to another company, the cost of decommissioning would fall to the county and landowners.

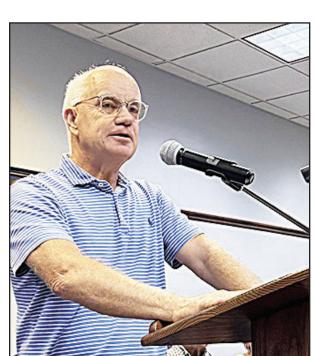




Photo | Damon Stone, JPI

**Chelene Nightingale** used to represent a solar company out of Los Angeles, California, and she explained that independent studies have found that proximity to a solar plant can lead to an increase of headaches, dizziness, nausea and potentially cancer. Nightingale added that a safer alternative to solar would be nuclear energy, citing France as an example of a country that safely utilizes nuclear energy.



leading advocate against the project, citing how Wood **Duck Solar and Geenex have not** been transparent with government organizations, and that they have been left in the dark, citing another Geenex plant, Bluebird, which had been sold off to another company.

Photo | Damon Stone, JPI **Terrell Renfro was** another representative of the LiUNA, and he stated that the solar project would bring local jobs to the area.





◆ Photo | Damon Stone, JPI Michelle Snyder shared details on a solar farm in Eagle Point, Oregon, and that solar panels in the area had caught fire, with toxic chemicals leaking into the area. Snyder echoed the concerns of the Amish, citing that the leak in **Barren County would** seep into the limestone at the **Mammoth Cave** watershed and would poison the water.



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