

# DOE site projects could bring economic growth

## Economic report projects lasting impact of planned nuclear enrichment facilities

BY BEN OVERBY  
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Greater Paducah Economic Development, or GPED, delivered a presentation on recent projects at the U.S. Department of Energy Paducah Site to the McCracken County Fiscal Court during its Monday meeting at the county courthouse.

GPED President Bruce Wilcox presented the organization’s quarterly report to the board. Among other ventures, he summarized recent developments with Global Laser Enrichment, or GLE, and General Matter’s nuclear enrichment projects, as well as the federal site’s selection for a potential artificial intelligence data center.

Wilcox said beyond the 140 full-time jobs the General Matter site is expected to produce, he anticipates the creation of an additional 170 induced and indirect employees from the site, contributing to an estimated recurring annual economic impact of \$71

million per year. “General matter hopes to begin site work later this year, with construction to begin next year,” Wilcox said. “They plan on constructing buildings that do not have nexus with radiological activities while they work on their NRC license application.”

NRC refers to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which must license any company seeking to construct or operate commercial nuclear reactors and fuel cycle facilities.

Wilcox also shared information on GLE’s status, saying the company plans to wait approximately 18 months to begin construction, when its NRC licensing is complete.

“They filed the second half of their NRC license application at the end of June,” Wilcox said. “They filed the environmental piece back in December, just prior to Christmas, and they filed the safety portion just at the end of June.”

Wilcox said while numbers are not finalized for the GLE project, he anticipates an even greater economic impact for Paducah and McCracken County.

“General Matter is the largest investment in the history of western Kentucky, and Global Laser Enrichment, when it comes online, I anticipate it to be even larger,” Wilcox said. “Like I mentioned, the recurring annual economic impact of General Matter’s is about \$71 billion per year. While the numbers are not finalized on GLE yet, they’re saying somewhere between 300 and 400 employees. We say 350 just for an average, but that project could have as much of a recurring annual economic impact as \$175 million per year.”

Wilcox also addressed the July announcement that the DOE Paducah Site was selected by the Department of Energy as one of four potential sites across the nation for high-powered AI data centers.

“What makes us uniquely situated to host such a large-scale project is the proximity of our electrical infrastruc-



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ture,” Wilcox said. “We have four generation and transmission companies that have transmission infrastructure on-site at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion site: Grid Alliance or NextEra, TVA, Kentucky Utilities and Big Rivers Electric. We’re also in the heart of the MISO, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator Network, which makes it very favorable to pump additional electricity into the site.”

Wilcox said MISO, a major electric grid operator spanning 15 states in the central United States, reports having approximately 200,000

megawatts of installed capacity and between 85,000 and 115,000 megawatts being utilized. Wilcox said the AI project is not yet guaranteed, and GPED will be working with the DOE in the coming months.

“We anticipate hosting an industry meeting within the next few months, then we will submit formal requests for proposals to prospective data centers and companies that have an interest in siting a large-scale project here,” Wilcox said. “I’ll have more information on those projects as they progress in the coming months.”

Additionally, the fiscal court approved a \$314,309.31 bid from Sportaflex to provide multipurpose fencing for the Paducah Sports Park. The fencing will be portable and used within different fields across the park, according to Community Development Project Manager Steve Ervin.

The court also approved the signing of a resolution between the Kentucky Department of Transportation and the McCracken County Road Department shifting responsibility for certain roads.

“We’re going to be swapping, giving the state 10-and-a-half miles of high-volume connector roads that connect state road to state road, and we’ll be accepting 4.3 miles of lower volume roads that really fit more into our system,” McCracken County Road Engineer Randy Williams said.

Williams said the deal will be beneficial for both parties, saving the McCracken County Road Department from the cost of expensive maintenance on high-volume roads and creating more efficiency for both the state and the county.

## LCSO

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Ashley N. Rollins (32), of Corryton, Tn., was served with a Lyon Circuit Court warrant charging her with failure to appear in a case from 2021 involving a vehicle pursuit. She was also served with a warrant charging her with a probation violation stemming from the same case. Rollins was extradited from Knox County, Tn., back to Kentucky on this date. She was lodged in the Crittenden County Detention Center.

On Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2025, around 8:15 a.m., Chief Deputy Sam Adams responded to a rollover collision on KY-93 South near Lamasco. His investigation revealed a 2001 Nissan Altima, driven by Tana S. Stewart (34) of Cadiz, lost control of her vehicle after she stated a deer ran into her path of travel and she attempted to avoid it. Stewart’s vehicle went off the left side of the roadway and overturned. She refused medical treatment at the scene. Chief Deputy Adams charged Stewart with no insurance.

On Thursday, Aug. 21, 2025, after 8 a.m., the Sheriff’s Office received a call about a single-vehicle collision on KY 810 North near US-62. Chief Deputy Sam Adams, Sheriff Brent White, and Lyon County EMS responded to the scene. The investigation revealed John M. Huddleston (29) of Kuttawa was South on KY-810 North when he failed to negotiate a curve and left the roadway before coming to rest in a creek. After refusing medical transport, Huddleston was arrested by Chief Deputy Adams and charged with DUI-1st offense, no motorcycle operator’s license, and no insurance. Huddleston was lodged in the Crittenden County Detention Center.

On Thursday, Aug. 21, 2025, around 4:30 p.m., Deputy Josh Travis and other members of the Sheriff’s Office responded

to a disturbance complaint on KY-810 South involving several adults with children present. Upon arrival, all parties were separated, and the incident was mediated. One of the adults, identified as Mae N. Frazier (51) of Lexington, was arrested and charged with a Hardin District Court bench warrant for failure to appear and a Fayette District Court complaint warrant charging her with receiving stolen property (\$500 &lt; \$1,000). Frazier was lodged in the Crittenden County Detention Center.

On Thursday, Aug. 21, 2025, around 4:30 p.m., Chief Deputy Sam Adams responded to a disturbance complaint in Saratoga. The investigation revealed Laycee C. Hunter (33) of Eddyville had been in a dispute with a man who reportedly damaged her vehicle. In addition, Hunter was found to be operating on a revoked/suspended operator’s license. She was charged with driving on a DUI suspended license-2nd offense. She was cited to

court rather than arrested for this offense, due to her reportedly fleeing a domestic disturbance at the time. Deputies initiated an investigation into the disturbance which led to the vehicle damage, and charges are pending in that matter.

On Friday, Aug. 22, 2025, around 9:40 a.m., the Sheriff’s Office received a trespassing complaint off Hampton Road in the South end of Lyon County. Chief Deputy Sam Adams responded and located the subjects who were trespassing. The subjects were attempting to access Lake Barkley by going through residential yards. They were all given notice against trespass and Larry T. Noel (25) of Cadiz, was charged with possession of marijuana. Noel was cited to Lyon District Court.

On Friday, Aug. 22, 2025, around 2:30 p.m., the Sheriff’s Office responded to a disturbance complaint in Saratoga at the Methodist Church parking lot. This investigation led to the

arrest of Laycee C. Hunter (33) of Eddyville. Hunter was charged by Chief Deputy Sam Adams with driving on

a DUI suspended license-2nd offense. This was the second time in two days that Hunter was charged

with this offense. This time, she was arrested and lodged in the Crittenden County Detention Center.

### Notice of Vacant Lyon County Board of Education Seat

The Lyon County School District is seeking applications for appointment to the Lyon County Board of Education. Individuals interested in being appointed to the vacant seat in educational district #4 are encouraged to submit an application, available on the district website or directly from the Board of Education office at 217 Jenkins Rd, Eddyville, KY. Applicants must meet the eligibility requirements established by KRS 160.180 and shall submit with a letter of interest, an application, and evidence of a high school diploma or a GED certificate.

The vacancy is effective August 18, 2025. This appointment is effective until December 31, 2026. The individual appointed is eligible to file for the November 2026 General Election for the term that will end on December 31, 2028. This appointment is a public service position. The appointee shall not be employed by the Lyon County School District.

- Requirements for board members:**
- At least 24 years old.
  - A Kentucky citizen for the last three years.
  - A registered voter in educational district #4.
  - Earned a high school diploma or GED certificate.
  - Meet all other qualifications set forth in law (KRS 160.180).

Letters of intent and supporting documentation may be submitted by mail to Superintendent Russ Tilford, 217 Jenkins Road, Eddyville, KY 42038 or by email at russ.tilford@lyon.kyschools.us with a subject line of Board of Education Vacancy.

Letters of interest will be accepted until close of business on September 12, 2025. Interviews to fill the vacancy will be conducted by the Board of Education during a special called meeting.

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