

1 AN ACT relating to wind energy.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 278.704 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) No person shall commence to construct a merchant electric generating facility until
5 that person has applied for and obtained a construction certificate for the facility
6 from the board. The construction certificate shall be valid for a period of three (3)
7 years after the issuance date of the last permit required to be obtained from the
8 Energy and Environment Cabinet, after which the certificate shall be void. The
9 certificate shall be conditioned upon the applicant obtaining necessary air, water,
10 and waste permits. If an applicant has not obtained all necessary permits and has
11 not commenced to construct prior to the expiration date of the certificate, the
12 applicant shall be required to obtain a new valid certificate from the board.

13 (2) **(a)** Except as provided in subsections (3), (4), and (5) of this section, no
14 construction certificate shall be issued to construct a merchant electric
15 generating facility unless:

16 **1.** The exhaust stack of the proposed facility and any wind **energy** turbine
17 is at least one thousand (1,000) feet from the property boundary of any
18 adjoining property owner; and

19 **2.** All proposed structures or facilities used for generation of electricity are
20 two thousand (2,000) feet from any residential neighborhood, school,
21 hospital, or nursing home facility.

22 **(b)** For purposes of applications for site compatibility certificates pursuant to
23 KRS 278.216, only the exhaust stack of the proposed facility to be actually
24 used for coal or gas-fired generation or, beginning with applications for site
25 compatibility certificates filed on or after January 1, 2015, the proposed
26 structure or facility to be actually used for solar or wind generation shall be
27 required to be at least one thousand (1,000) feet from the property boundary

1 of any adjoining property owner and two thousand (2,000) feet from any
2 residential neighborhood, school, hospital, or nursing home facility.

3 (3) If the merchant electric generating facility is proposed to be located in a county or a
4 municipality with planning and zoning, then decommissioning and setback
5 requirements from a property boundary, residential neighborhood, school, hospital,
6 or nursing home facility may be established by the planning and zoning
7 commission. Any decommissioning requirement or setback established by a
8 planning and zoning commission for a facility in an area over which it has
9 jurisdiction shall:

10 (a) Have primacy over the decommissioning requirements in KRS 278.706(2)(m)
11 and the setback requirement in subsections (2) and (5) of this section; and

12 (b) Not be subject to modification or waiver by the board through a request for
13 deviation by the applicant, as provided in subsection (4) of this section or
14 otherwise.

15 (4) The board may grant a deviation from the requirements of subsection (2) of this
16 section on a finding that the proposed facility is designed to and, as located, would
17 meet the goals of KRS 224.10-280, 278.010, 278.212, 278.214, 278.216, 278.218,
18 and 278.700 to 278.716 at a distance closer than those provided in subsection (2) of
19 this section.

20 (5) If the merchant electric generating facility is proposed to be located on a site of a
21 former coal processing plant in the Commonwealth where the electric generating
22 facility will utilize on-site waste coal as a fuel source, then the one thousand (1,000)
23 foot property boundary requirement in subsection (2) of this section shall not be
24 applicable; however, the applicant shall be required to meet any other setback
25 requirements contained in subsection (2) of this section.

26 (6) If requested, a merchant electric generating entity considering construction of a
27 facility for the generation of electricity or a person acting on behalf of such an

1 entity shall hold a public meeting in any county where acquisition of real estate or
2 any interest in real estate is being considered for the facility. A request for such a
3 meeting may be made by the commission, or by any city or county governmental
4 entity, including a board of commissioners, planning and zoning, fiscal court,
5 mayor, or county judge/executive. The meeting shall be held not more than thirty
6 (30) days from the date of the request.

7 (7) The purpose of the meeting under subsection (6) of this section is to fully inform
8 landowners and other interested parties of the full extent of the project being
9 considered, including the project time line. One (1) or more representatives of the
10 entity with full knowledge of all aspects of the project shall be present and shall
11 answer questions from the public.

12 (8) Notice of the time, subject, and location of the meeting under subsection (6) of this
13 section shall be posted in both a local newspaper, if any, and a newspaper of
14 general circulation in the county. Notice shall also be placed on the websites of the
15 unregulated entity~~[,]~~ and any local governmental unit. Owners of real estate known
16 to be included in the project and any person whose property adjoins at any point
17 any property to be included in the project shall be notified personally by mail. All
18 notices must be mailed or posted at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting.

19 (9) The merchant electric generating entity or a person acting on behalf of a merchant
20 electric generating entity shall, on or before the date of the public meeting held
21 under subsection (6) of this section, provide notice of all research, testing, or any
22 other activities being planned or considered to:

- 23 (a) The Energy and Environment Cabinet;
- 24 (b) The Public Service Commission;
- 25 (c) The Transportation Cabinet;
- 26 (d) The Attorney General; and
- 27 (e) The Office of the Governor.

- 1 (10) Subsections (6) to (9) of this section shall not apply to any facility or project that
- 2 has already received a certificate of construction from the board.