

# McCracken Solar community newsletter

Edition: #1  
September 1, 2025



## Letter From the Field

Welcome! The McCracken Solar project **continues to move ahead.**

Thank you for staying connected with the McCracken Solar project, my name is Katie Haarsager and I'm writing the first **Letter from the Field!** I lead Stakeholder Engagement for McCracken Solar and these newsletters are our way of keeping the community informed as the project moves along. We will be sharing updates regularly and are here to answer any questions you may have along the way.

The **At a Glance** section has a quick view of project activities and the expected development schedule. In early 2026 we will host a pre-construction open house where you can meet the project team, learn more about what to expect during construction and ask questions. Where does the project stand today? We are excited to share that the McCracken Solar project has received County and State siting permits and continues to move forward! While full construction won't begin until 2026, some light field activity is currently underway to help us prepare.

You can find more information below in the **Construction Update** section along with additional details on the McCracken Solar development journey. Please don't hesitate to reach out to [kystakeholderrelations@aes.com](mailto:kystakeholderrelations@aes.com) with suggested topics, recommendations, or general questions.

I look forward to keeping you informed on the project.

### Katie Haarsager

Stakeholder Relations Manager for the McCracken Solar project  
AES

## At a Glance

### Project quick facts and status

- Project Name: McCracken Solar
- Location: McCracken County, KY
- Size: 60 megawatts (enough to power the equivalent of ~12,000 homes)
- Status: County & State siting permits received; pre-construction phase

### Estimated timeline of activities

- Geotechnical Studies (July-Aug 2025)
- EPC Selection (Fall/Winter 2025)
- Pre-Construction Open House (Early 2026)
- Site Mobilization (Fall 2026)

### Community impacts

- Traffic: Traffic around site should be minimal/very light right now
- Noise: No work is happening on site right now with noise impacts
- We are committed to minimizing disruptions to daily life and aim to provide as much notice as possible prior to major activity.

Questions or feedback about activity on site?

Contact us at [kystakeholderrelations@aes.com](mailto:kystakeholderrelations@aes.com)



## Preparation for construction has begun with geotechnical site work.

While we're not quite at full construction yet, there is much to prepare. This summer, contractors have conducted important geotechnical studies at the McCracken Solar site. These studies help us understand both surface and subsurface conditions, so we can safely and effectively design the project. Our team will review data from the geotechnical testing (soil strength, moisture, and stability); finalize project designs; and coordinate with local officials and landowners to plan access routes and equipment staging areas. These steps ensure we're designing and building the project in a way that is safe, efficient, and respectful to the surrounding community.



### How does solar construction work?

1. Site prep - Carefully remove topsoil and complete selective grading
2. Foundations & posts – Installing steel piles that support the panels
3. Panel installation – Laying out solar modules in rows
4. Wiring & connection – Linking the panels to the electric grid
5. Final testing & cleanup – Verifying safety and performance

We'll go deeper into each of these phases in upcoming newsletters.

## Meet the team

The project is being developed and will be owned and operated by AES, a U.S.-based energy company with more than four decades of experience building energy projects that create long-term value and positive impact for local communities, while strengthening US energy security and supporting increasing energy demands. AES is committed to being a good neighbor and working with local contractors, community partners, and neighbors like you throughout the life of the project.



**Katie Haarsager**  
Sr Manager Stakeholder Engagement

#### Day-to-day:

I spend my days with community members, local leaders, and organizations to ensure our projects are understood, supported, and aligned with local priorities. I balance strategic planning with on-the-ground conversations, turning community feedback into actionable solutions that help projects move forward successfully.

#### Best part of the job or this project:

Seeing people in the community become more curious about where energy and electricity comes from and helping them understand it. It may not be a glamorous industry but it's critical in powering our lives!

#### Background or credentials/education:

University of North Dakota graduate with 16 years of experience in community engagement specific to solar, wind, oil and gas, pipeline, carbon capture, and more.

#### Hometown:

Rural Renville County, North Dakota (Graduated with 13 classmates!)

#### Fun Fact or Interest:

I volunteer through NDSU's Master Gardener program and love to talk plants.

#### In the spotlight

### Community partners

We are proud to partner with local initiatives and nonprofits where we work. More details will be shared in upcoming editions — if you know of a community effort we should consider supporting, let us know!

### Spread the word

Please share this newsletter with neighbors, local groups, or anyone interested you think may be interested in the project.

Want to be added to our list?  
Scan to subscribe for updates  
or choose to receive this  
newsletter by email.



## Contact us

If you have questions, comments, ideas, or a complaint/grievance related to the project, please reach out. We look forward to keeping you updated!

Email: [KYstakeholderrelations@aes.com](mailto:KYstakeholderrelations@aes.com)

Website: [www.aes.com/mccracken-solar](http://www.aes.com/mccracken-solar)

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