$200 million solar energy project coming to Caldwell

BY DAVID B. SNOW
cbsouthnews.com

A $200 million solar energy utility project is coming to Caldwell County with a target opening date sometime in 2023.

Geronimo Energy, a solar energy company based in Madison, Wisconsin, is planning a project in western Caldwell County.

County Manager Jeff Boone made the announcement Tuesday at the Caldwell Fiscal Court meeting.

"Geronimo is developing a solar portfolio throughout the state of Kentucky and has identified Caldwell County as a prime location to invest in the local community by adding up to 250 megawatts of new, clean solar generation," said Lindsay T. Smith, the director of marketing and communications for Geronimo Energy.

"Geronimo will obtain the necessary permits to build the project as dictated by the project’s jurisdictional authority and will also work with the grid operator to obtain an agreement to connect the project to the electrical grid. The current plan is to complete commercial operation in 2023."

Jailer David Knight said the project "will be transferred from the Boyles Estate Trust to McCracken County’s tax system."

Paducah city officials introduced an ordinance Tuesday for a $274,921 contract with Lexington-based American Contracting Inc. to construct the Loop Bridge. The bridge would be about 100 feet long and would cost $30,000 from McCracken County, $30,000 from Four Rivers Nuclear Partnership, and $200 million from Veolia North America and $5,000,000 from Gernimo Contractors.

City documents also indicate an additional $86,000 will be transferred from the Boyles Estate Trust to pay for the project, once the city authorized the ordinance.

Murphy told The Sun that the bridge will be constructed out of steel truss and wood. He estimated it would be completed by late summer or early fall. It’s a $300,000 project once the contractor receives notice to proceed to city documents.

"It’s obviously going to expand opportunities for longer distances that they actually made public plans for pedestrians to go from the outside of Exit 4 and go into the mall."

"So, it’s getting us closer to making a connection that we can go down County Park Road to U.S. 60 and then once we’re at U.S. 60, we can go out to the mall through what we’ve called the double-crossover diamond - that they actually made work to be open to pedestrians to get from the outside of Exit 4 and go into the mall."

"We anticipate that with the new double-crossover diamond - that they actually made work to be open to pedestrians to get from the outside of Exit 4 and go into the mall."

"So, it’s getting us closer to making a connection that we can go down County Park Road to U.S. 60 and then once we’re at U.S. 60, we can go out to the mall through what we’ve called the double-crossover diamond - that they actually made work to be open to pedestrians to get from the outside of Exit 4 and go into the mall."