

**Richland County Board**  
**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**New Energy Equity Solar Farm Special Use Permit**  
**July 10, 2025**

**Convene**

Travis Paddock called the Public Hearing of the Richland County Board to order at 6:30 PM on July 10, 2025, in the Jail Meeting Room.

**Public Discussion –**

Jesse Diamond with New Energy Equity was in attendance and discussed the proposed project for a solar farm on Seals' property on Van Road within Olney Township. Jesse stated that the project would allow Ameren users to subscribe and receive a 10% savings on their annual Ameren energy bills (\$174 per household per year). The solar farm would be 12.2 acres with an eight-foot fence all around the property. The solar panels track with the sun. He stated that the solar panels would not be visible from the road. Several citizens were in attendance and voiced their concerns. Jesse then stated that if this project is approved, it would not begin for nine to twelve months.

Dan Colwell was in attendance and discussed the County Ordinance that regulates solar farms. He stated that prior to approval of the project, a road use agreement and many other issues would need to be worked out.

Brian VanBlaricum asked Jesse how far the solar panels had to be from a residence. Jesse stated that the ordinance states 100 feet, but this project would be over 1000 feet from any residence.

Steve Schonert asked Jesse how you would know how many subscribers you would have. Jesse stated that a third-party company takes care of that, but 435 homes could benefit.

Travis Paddock thanked everyone for attending the Public Hearing.

The hearing adjourned at 7:08 PM.

Amanda Troyer  
County Clerk

Travis Paddock  
County Board Chairman