

On the Circuit Court's own motion, the status hearing for Monday, January 26th, 2026 for the Green Garden Township Kuse and Stuenkel solar cases, and related solar cases in Wesley, Florence and other Will County Townships, has been canceled.

Beginning in 2024, a number of solar developers filed lawsuits, which were later consolidated, after being denied special use permits by the Will County Board. The solar industry asserts that new solar laws grant it the ability to pick any property in unincorporated rural Will County, ignoring objections by local decision-makers and rejecting established comprehensive land use plans. As long as minimum requirements set in the solar statutes are met, the industry asserts its permits cannot be denied.

Will County has countered that it has the right to deny solar permit applications, just as it does with any other land use matter. Objections included environmental concerns and adverse impacts to existing or future rural residential growth. 84 solar development applications have been filed in Will County, with 56 approved and 10 denied. Another 17 solar applications were withdrawn during the zoning process, often due to strong community opposition.

In addition, a clear due process violation is also at issue. While a public hearing is required, the solar industry asserts that a County Board must always vote in favor of its applications. This fundamentally denies rural communities and local officials any meaningful due process and defies decades of zoning precedents and centuries of common law..

Judge Braun will deliver his ruling to legal counsel by mail, and his decision is anticipated by or before February 5th, 2026. Based upon the ruling, one side or the other is expected to appeal.

Thank you again to all our rural Will County Township officials and residents for your continued support, attendance and concern.

Sincerely,
Thomas Becker

Chairman
The Watershed Committee
Green Garden Township
Monee, IL