

[REDACTED]

Case Officers
East Anglia One – Noth
East Anglia Two

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16th February 2021

Dear Mr Smith

I have seen from the SEAS website that a formal Complaint Letter has been sent to you regarding SPR's Option Agreement entered into with certain landowners and others, and its implications for those signing it.

I wish to lodge my complaint and disagreement with Scottish Power's unreasonable use of non-disclosure agreements within their Option Agreements.

These non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) are undermining the integrity of the statutory application procedure. The risk is that Examiners are not hearing the voices of many people affected, because these parties have been encouraged to sign NDAs believing that the outcome of this Examination is a foregone conclusion, because of its NSIP status. There is also pressure on everyone concerned to get on with it and there are of course, financial incentives to sign before it becomes a compulsory action.

I am concerned at the contents of this Option Agreement, in particular the fact that it requires one to withdraw any previous opposition and actively support the Applicant going forward.

In a fair, democratic and open society it is important that all people can speak freely. I believe that the actions of SPR in requiring NDAs dissipates the true extent of the opposition to SPR's plans and it is therefore a substantial flaw in the DCO process. These NDAs are unfairly shifting the balance of the debate in favour of the developers and given the immense resources that they have to throw at this process, local communities are even further disadvantaged.

Separately, I have been made aware that EDF has not included an NDA in their equivalent Option Agreement relating to Sizewell C and compulsory acquisition of affected land.

I believe that the ExA has a responsibility to address this very serious issue. It cannot be ignored. I wholly support SEAS in bringing this matter to your attention and request action to stipulate that all NDAs be removed in any documentation because they impede the ability of affected parties to take part in the planning process.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Richard Cooper

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