



CLEVE HILL SOLAR PARK

GRID CONNECTION STATEMENT

November 2018
Revision A

Document Reference: 5.4
APFP Regulation: 6(1)(a)(i)

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CLEVE HILL
SOLAR PARK

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Cleve Hill Solar Park Limited (CHSPL) is seeking to develop a solar photovoltaic array electricity generating facility and electrical storage facility at Cleve Hill, 2 km north east of Faversham and 5 km west of Whitstable on the north Kent coast, referred to as the Cleve Hill Solar Park.
- 1.2 Cleve Hill Solar Park will constitute a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) by virtue of section 14 (1)(a) and sections 15(1) and (2) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008) which includes within the definition of an NSIP any onshore generating station in England or Wales of 50 megawatts (MW) capacity or more. Under section 31 of the PA 2008 a development consent order (DCO) is required to develop a NSIP. Under section 37 of the PA 2008, the DCO can only be granted if an application is made for it to the Secretary of State.
- 1.3 The project will comprise:
- a) a solar photovoltaic array with a gross electrical output capacity of over 50 MW, comprising photovoltaic modules, fixed to mounting structures, with inverters, transformers and a network of cable circuits (the Solar Array);
 - b) a battery storage facility with a gross storage capacity of over 50 MW comprising battery energy storage, transformers, switch gear and ancillary equipment, and a network of cable circuit, including to connect to the Solar Array (the Energy Storage Facility); and
 - c) associated development, including:
 - i) a substation and electrical connection to export power from the Solar Array and Energy Storage Facility to the National Grid Electricity Transmission System (NETS) (the 'Electrical Connection'), comprising underground cable circuits;
 - ii) a network of cables, landscaping, earthworks, drainage and undergrounding an existing overhead line;
 - iii) creation and maintenance of vehicular access;
 - iv) flood protection bunds; and
 - v) maintenance of an existing flood defence.
- 1.4 The Solar Array and Energy Storage Facility, together with all associated development are referred to as the 'Project'. The land upon which the Project would be developed, or which would be required in order to facilitate the development of the Project, is referred to as the 'Project Site'.
- 1.5 Paragraph 4.9.1 of the Overarching Energy National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) emphasises that it is for the Applicant to ensure that there will be necessary infrastructure and capacity in the transmission and distribution network to accommodate the electricity to be generated by a proposed new power plant.

- 1.6 Section 37 of the PA 2008 governs the content of an application for a development consent order, including the requirements for the necessary accompanying documents specified in the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (APFP Regulations).
- 1.7 Regulation 6(1)(a)(i) of the APFP Regulations requires an applicant for a DCO in respect of an onshore generating station to provide a statement of who will be responsible for designing and building the connection to the electricity grid. This Grid Connection Statement accompanies CHSPL's application for a DCO in respect of the Project (the Application) and complies with Regulation 6(1)(a)(i) of the APFP Regulations.

2. PROJECT SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Solar Array and Energy Storage Facility would each be capable of providing an electrical output of over 50 MW.
- 2.2 The Solar Array will generate electricity during the day time, particularly when there is high solar irradiance. The provision of the Energy Storage Facility offers a number of benefits as set out in the Statement of Need (Document Reference: []) and Chapter 5: Project Description of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference: []). These include balancing the output of the Solar Array to the NETS, so that it can be utilised when: (a) there is an increased demand for energy (such as after dark in the evenings); and (b) there is a sudden and/or emergent change in power supply or demand on the NETS due to the failure, or changing operational plans, of other grid-connected assets.
- 2.3 The Project is more fully described in Chapter 5: Project Description of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference: []).

3. CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS

- 3.1 The Solar Array and Energy Storage Facility will supply electricity to the NETS operated by National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC (NGET). NGET is currently the System Operator for the complete NETS and Transmission Owner for England and Wales. It holds a transmission licence issued pursuant to the Electricity Act 1989. NGET is in the process of splitting into two distinct legal entities (from April 2019), one to take on the System Operator role (National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO)) and the other to retain the Transmission Owner role (NGET).
- 3.2 CHSPL received a grid connection offer from NGET on 9 August 2018, offering connection to the existing Cleve Hill 400kV substation. That offer was accepted by CHSPL on 25 October 2018. The connection to the NETS will be an import and export connection to facilitate the charging of the Energy Storage Facility from external sources.
- 3.3 As such, CHSPL confirms that output of the Solar Array and Energy Storage Facility will be exported via the NETS.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES FOR DESIGNING AND BUILDING THE GRID CONNECTION

- 4.1 Electricity generated by the Solar Array and the Energy Storage Facility will be exported to the existing 400 kV National Grid Cleve Hill Substation (part of the NETS), via the Electrical Connection. That substation is located adjacent to the Project Site and has available capacity for the Project to connect directly into the NETS.
- 4.2 CHSPL will be responsible for designing and building the Electrical Connection up to the point where the 400kV export cable meets the 400kV gas insulated switchgear at the NGET 400kV substation.
- 4.3 Under the terms of the connection offer, NGET will be responsible for designing and building the gas insulated switchgear and auxiliary equipment within the existing Cleve Hill 400kV substation. It is not anticipated that any additional plant or equipment will be required to facilitate this connection. However, if this situation should change, responsibility for securing any necessary consents for upgrades to the existing NGET substation would remain with NGET.
- 4.4 Further information on the Electrical Connection have been considered is contained Chapter 5: Project Description of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference []). .

5. ACQUISITION OF LAND AND RIGHTS

- 5.1 CHSPL has an option agreement in place for a lease and rights over the land on which the Electrical Connection will be located up to the boundary of NGET's ownership of the existing substation. The option agreement was signed on 17 November 2016 with the landowners Martin Roland Goodman, Charles Roland Goodman and Robert Martin Goodman.
- 5.2 As explained in the Statement of Reasons (Document Reference []) CHSPL is also seeking powers via its DCO to compulsorily acquire land and rights and impose restrictions to allow CHSPL to construct, use and maintain the Electrical Connection.
- 5.3 These powers are set out in Part 5 of the draft DCO. These are described in the Book of Reference (Document Reference []) and are justified in the Statement of Reasons (Document Reference []).
- 5.4 On this basis, CHSPL considers that all land and rights would be in place pursuant to its Option Agreement and/or via any powers of compulsory purchase that it may be granted in the draft DCO (Document Reference []) in order to deliver the Electrical Connection.

6. CONSENT FOR THE CONNECTION WORKS

- 6.1 The Electrical Connection forms part of the Project for which development consent is being sought via the DCO Application.
- 6.2 As such, CHSPL considers that, if the DCO is granted on substantively the same terms as those set out in the draft DCO (Document Reference []) then development consent for the Electrical Connection will have been secured.

7. **CONCLUSION**

- 7.1 CHSPL is required to submit a statement pursuant to Regulation 6 of the APFP Regulations confirming "*who will be responsible for designing and building the connection to the electricity grid*".
- 7.2 CHSPL considers that this statement provides confirmation to the Secretary of State that:
- 7.2.1 CHSPL has secured an offer with NGET regarding connection of over 50 MW output from each of the Solar Array and the Energy Storage Facility to the NETS;
 - 7.2.2 CHSPL has, or will have, the ability to procure the necessary land and rights in order to construct the Electrical Connection;
 - 7.2.3 In including the Electrical Connection as Work No.3 in the draft DCO, CHSPL would, if the DCO was made on substantively the same terms as those out in the draft DCO (Document Reference []), have secured development consent for the Electrical Connection.



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