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20 September 2019

**Planning Act 2008 – Application for Development Consent
Cleve Hill Solar Park Ltd
The proposed Cleve Hill Solar Park Order (“the Order”)**

Application ref: EN010085

Deadline 5 Submission by the Applicant

Dear Hefin,

We are pleased to enclose Cleve Hill Solar Park Ltd’s (“the Applicant’s”) Deadline 5 (20 September 2019) submission which has been prepared by the Applicant in response to the Rule 8 letter issued by the Examining Authority (ExA) on 07 June 2019.

Documents have been submitted via email. A tracker is provided with email submissions to make clear which documents have been issued with each email.

Submissions requested by the ExA

As requested in the Examination Timetable included in Annex A to the Rule 8 letter, the following documents have been submitted:

- Written summaries of oral submissions put at the hearings held during the week commencing 9 September 2019;
- Comments on responses to the ExA’s FWQ (published on 9 August 2019);
- An updated Guide to the Application;
- An updated version of the dDCO in clean, tracked and word versions;
- An updated Compulsory Acquisition Schedule;
- Comments on responses submitted for Deadline 4;
- Progressed Statements of Common Ground;
- Updated versions of application documents; and
- Other Submissions.

The updated Guide to the Application (Revision F) sets out in detail the documents submitted.

Medway Estuary and Swale Strategy (Environment Agency, September 2019)

The Applicant has reviewed the final version of the MEASS documents published by the EA on 10 September 2019¹ and would like to highlight the following:

- Whilst the leading option for the Cleve Hill site (Benefit Area 6.2) is for managed realignment from year 20, the MEASS clearly sets out a “Plan B” in the event that Cleve Hill Solar Park achieves consent and is constructed (page 123 of Appendix H – Implementation Plan).
- The presence of important infrastructure is acknowledged by the EA to present risks to managed realignment on the Cleve Hill site resulting in managed realignment being proposed for epoch 2 (from year 20) (e.g., page 78 of Appendix K – Habitat Regulations Assessment)
- The delivery of the leading option of managed realignment is modelled to result in increased future flood extents (page 219 of Appendix I – Modelling Report).

The EA has commented that the MEASS documentation has not changed substantively since the consultation version, and that the EA does not consider that there are changes to the MEASS from to the consultation version published in November 2017 that would affect Cleve Hill Solar Park.

Documents to be updated for Deadline 6

The Applicant is continuing to consult on and update the following documents which have not been able to be submitted at Deadline 5:

- Statement of Common Ground between the Applicant and Kent County Council;
- Outline Battery Safety Management Plan;
- Outline Landscape and Biodiversity Management Plan;
- Mitigation Schedule / Route Map.

The Applicant is engaging with key consultees in respect of the changes required to these documents in order to provide updated versions at the earliest opportunity prior to Deadline 6 (4 October 2019).

Selection of access option (north or south)

The Applicant is unable to confirm at this deadline its decision in relation to the access routes to the north and south of the existing Cleve Hill substation. However,

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/medway-estuary-and-swale-flood-and-coastal-risk-management-strategy/medway-estuary-and-swale-flood-and-coastal-risk-management-strategy>

good progress has been made in negotiations with relevant land owners, and the Applicant expects to be able to make a decision by Deadline 6 (4 October 2019).

Should there be any queries or issues with the documents submitted, please do not hesitate to contact the Applicant's project team.

Yours sincerely,



Hugh Brennan
Managing Director
For and on behalf of Cleve Hill Solar Park Ltd

