

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Sunnica Energy Farm](#)
Subject: Preliminary Meeting Delay - Interested Party Response - N Bennett, Chippenham
Date: 18 May 2022 01:29:46

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Nick Bennett

18th May 2022

Dear Sir or Madam

Application by Sunnica Ltd for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Sunnica Energy Farm Request by the Applicant in Respect of the Timing of the Preliminary Meeting / Examination

I am responding as a resident of Chippenham (Cambridgeshire) to comment on Sunnica's request to delay the date of the Preliminary Meeting.

A. The issue of whether the Preliminary Meeting should be delayed until mid-July 2022.

- Clearly the meeting should be delayed as the proposed changes represent a significant change to the scheme as previously presented and assessed by the affected communities. However, the extended timescale seems wholly inadequate as I do not believe that Sunnica will be able to carry out all the necessary actions and consultations within this new timeframe.

B. The Applicant's proposed timetable to consult further on amendments intended to form the formal Change Request to be made to the ExA.

1. This proposed timetable appears to be inadequate, which could mean the required assessment will be rushed and therefore, would most likely result in poorly considered findings.
2. Such a significant change to the scheme will need proper, formal consultation and that one month for this step is inadequate. This is not enough time for councils and other interested parties to review, consider, respond and also to consult.
3. The timing also appears to be yet another cynical attempt by Sunnica to push consultations into the summer holiday season to lessen the response from interested parties.
4. For the Sunnica team to be in this position after the consultation period with no suitable plan to connect with the electrical grid represents a serious level of ineptitude to the point the current application should be withdrawn and the whole process started anew.
5. The proposal for an Alternative Substation Extension (Option 3) to be placed within the Sunnica West Site raises serious concerns regarding the current expectation for the connecting cable from Burwell grid connection to be buried for its entire route. As the transmission voltages are likely to be raised over this stretch I foresee another significant change to be made at a later date comprising the more unsightly use of over-head cables on

Transmission Towers (Pylons). The financial incentive for a change such as this is savings in the region of 80% in comparison to subterranean cables when dealing with high voltage transmission. Even if the voltages remain the same, although I do not see how without the substation being built at Burwell, the pressure on the developer to avoid the costs a subterranean cable route will be considerable.

In conclusion, the revised timescale is entirely inadequate and will not sufficient time to allow all parties to consider the new information. Such a significant change should require a full and thorough investigation and consultation.

Yours faithfully

Nick Bennett