

12th December 2022

From Alan B Smith PI Ref No 20030110

Subject; Public Meetings week commencing Monday 5th December 2022 Re Sunnica.

Post Hearing Submission

To Planning Inspectorate for the attention of the Examining Authority Inspectors.

Dear Sirs

I wish to comment on the meeting I attended on Tuesday afternoon 6th December 2022. It became apparent as 5pm approached that certain items on the agenda could not be discussed due to time constraints. These included the Funding Statement.

It was agreed by the Inspectors that the meeting would be continued on the 14th February 2023.

I have a personal interest in the Applicants Funding Statement and under my WR dated 13th October 2022 Appendix Nos 11 and 12 included 2 very critical professional reports on the finances of Sunnicas UK companies and those of Solaer Holdings, S.L.

Therefore I welcomed the opportunity on Tuesday last week to hear the Applicants response to the questions that the ExA were putting to the applicant which included that of a surety.

There was 1 hour left before the commencement of the evening session on Tuesday 6th December so I consider it would have been more appropriate to complete the agenda on that day.

The Funding Statement will not be discussed now until February the 14th which is only 6 weeks from the final date of the examination 28th March 2023. This is too close for any meaningful discussions to take place before the close of the Examination.

This is unless the questions included in my Appendix No 13 are fully answered by the Applicant or its Auditors prior to that date and all up to date documents, are supplied.

It is only if all this information is forthcoming and the cost of Acquisition that the ExA can make a recommendation to the Secretary of State.

It is also important to examine why the agenda could not be concluded.

The applicant had a team of 14 people present and on so many occasions could not directly answer the questions put by Mr Rigby This caused delays to the proceedings.

There was also mention by Mr Kean of the correspondence the PI had received from Sunnica dated 28th November 2022.

I refer to the author Sunnica Energy Farm Project Team 8.52 "Update by the Applicant on Heritage Matters and Sub Station Connection."

This is a long and somewhat complex letter but refers to a "Further Change" and suggested alterations to the ExA timetable.

I also note it states that the LAs see no reason for a further Consultation. Mr Kean pointed out at the first Preliminary Meeting when addressing Sunnica, that it was the PI that made that decision and NOT Sunnica.

The fact this letter was sent only 7 days before the start of the public meetings last week I see as a deliberate attempt by The Applicant to derail the timetable of the ExA.

Furthermore Sunnica are responsible for delaying the start of the 6 month Examination by 2 months.

They are now asking for the removal of Option 2 but all this inconvenience to the ExA and the public is as a result of their own incompetence in not having the Grid Connection at Burwell signed and sorted BEFORE they submitted their DCO.

The consultation for the first set of Changes was inadequate and unfair to the public at large and I cannot see how Sunnica can at this late stage carry out a proper consultation.

In conclusion I see no reason why the timetable should be changed by the ExA to suit the agenda of Sunnica and perhaps delay highly important discussions of an item such as the Funding Statement.

Thank you

Alan Smith