

**From:** [Helen Faulkner](#)  
**To:** [Sunnica Energy Farm](#)  
**Subject:** Sunnica response to SOS letter 27th July 2023  
**Date:** 21 August 2023 07:52:18

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15th August 2023

To John Wheadon Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

From Helen Faulkner Red Lodge. Planning Inspectorate ID 20030116

Dear Mr Wheadon

Thank you for giving me the opportunity as an Interested Party to comment on your letter to Sunnica Ltd of the 27th July 2023 and their response via Pinsent Masons dated 10th August 2023.

I would like to make some comments on section 4 Bess Design and Hazardous Substance Consent (HSC).

Red Lodge has a population of 6,000 and has 2 primary schools with 1,000 pupils in attendance. We are situated half a mile from the largest of the 3 BESS Sunnica sites that is due to be built in Elms Road. This is a young community, we have a village WhatsApp group so I am in contact with many families.

We have always let it be known that we are frightened of the proposed BESS development because of the risk of fire and explosion.

I personally have contributed to the planning inspectorate examination with written submissions and taken an active interest in the applicants proposals.

What has been sadly lacking from Sunnica over the last 3 years is good communication and complete transparency with their plans.

This takes me firstly to the design of the BESS sites. The community has never been given the final design of the scheme so as to make a properly reasoned judgement of the apparent risks to human life. Also the distinct possibility of a total evacuation in the case of a catastrophe.

I have made repeated attempts in requesting Sunnica to provide me with the exact details of design only to be told that will be made known when the final design is agreed.

Sunnica in recent months held an exhibition in Chippenham village hall which I attended. This gave the layout of the BESS proposal as flat plans of technical data. I expected a model of a mock-up of the design, with dimensions, a 3D image and a computerised image of the 3 sites.

On enquiry with Sunnica personnel I was told that was not possible. The fact staff could not even answer my questions gave me no confidence in the scheme.

It later became apparent as the Examination commenced that the substations were 30 feet high with 30 feet high concrete walls for safety reasons.

I also attended an accompanied site visit covering Red Lodge and Worlington which included the proposed BESS site in Elms Road. Once again I asked the Sunnica representative for exact details of dimensions etc and he said he didn't know.

Turning now to Pinsent Masons response on behalf of Sunnica it is deeply concerning we are told Sunnica will not produce a final design for scrutiny until after planning consent is known on the 28th September.

For myself and the Red Lodge community this is unacceptable.

I will now turn my attention to the other section of para 4 which is (HSC)

Throughout the examination we have heard of the global BESS fires with deaths and serious injury from Academics and experts in the field of toxic plumes. Also the BESS fire and explosion close to home in Liverpool gives much concern to the public at large.

We are also told the 75 acres of BESS proposed and the amount of electricity that would

be generated makes it one of the largest BESS sites in the world.

There is specific evidence from every report submitted that BESS are unsafe. Sunnica does not seem to grasp the dangers involved and the fear the public have of a major catastrophe at one of their 3 sites proposed.

Pinsent Masons have not answered the questions put forward on behalf of the Secretary of State about the regulations for (HSC). It seems they have been tired of so called repetitious correspondence and have not addressed the safety issues of (HSC) Again as with the design not being available until after planning consent this is again not acceptable to communities that would have to live with the risks for 40 years.

In conclusion I request the Secretary of State to refuse consent for the Sunnica application based on no final BESS design being available to the public for scrutiny and no (HSC) regulations in place.

Yours sincerely  
Helen Faulkner

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