From: To:

Sunnica Energy Farm

t: re: Sunnica - Response to Secretary of States letter dated 14 December 2023- Interested Party Reference number: 20030889

ate: 25 January 2024 22:41:15

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Application by Sunnica Ltd for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Sunnica Energy Farm Interested Party Reference number: 20030889

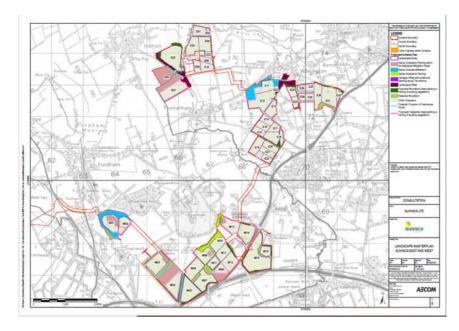
Dear Secretary of State,

I am all for renewable forms of energy but not the proposal by Sunnica due to the lack of planning, Sunnica is unfit and incapable of carrying out such a project safely and environmentally, lack of concerns for the local environment, the misleading and untruthful behaviour of Sunnica, the quite inadequate skills of Sunnica for such a massive project, the lack of science, lack of planning, the general bullying and intimidatory behaviour of Sunnica to name just a few reasons for my opposition.

Points to consider (referencing secretary of states letter):

3. i. Visual impact. Currently, the small solar farms in the locality are highly visible from nearby and A11 road. Much larger solar farm would be seen from miles. Again, what can be believed from applicant since all reports to date have been biased, misleading or worse (lies possibly re: soil quality). Additionally, safety concerns for traffic. I have not seen the risk assessment for traffic heading from Newmarket in the direction of Red Lodge (or Theford or Norwich) along the A1304 and over the bridge which crosses the A14. Solar panels will be at W07, W09, W17, W06 which will reflect into the eyes of drivers, potentially damaging eyesights and causing road accidents. Where this road crosses the A14, it is curved left initially and quite a steep incline and decline over the bridge followed by a sharp curved right.





- 3. ii. There is no mitigation for the biggest solar farm in Europe. Again, what can be believed from applicant since all reports to date have been biased, misleading or worse (lies possibly re: soil quality).
- 4. The glint and glare assessment was carried out by a firm which was paid for by Sunnica. Glint and glare report modelling not done as 'in their experience' it is not necessary yet they have never worked on something this big. Military airbase nearby. Glint and glare report by Pagerpower. They state no modelling done because they predict no significant impact/no solar reflections. The stated reason for this is their past experience (yet provide no past experience of preparing a report on something so big). The solar farm is 3x bigger than anything else. It is the first of its kind this size in the UK yet in their experience, as they have experience of working on such sizeable projects, a solar farm this big, they do not have to assess by model the impact of glint and glare on nearby roads, houses and low flying, especially military aircraft. The military aircraft routinely fly around and over the proposed solar energy farm. This is a fact. No one has worked out angles.
- 5. The SPA. In the Chase Concept development (off Turnpike Road in Red Lodge) which is very close to E18 the proposed site of one of the BESS (otherside of A11 and on a few hundred meters away), there are protected newts. The land where the BESS site is has water and habitat of the newts. This has been ignored which is wholly inappropriate and warrants further investigation.

Important omissions which need consideration – especially the environmental impact to wildlife, plants and humans:

Solar panels absorb about 15% of sunlight and the rest is reflected. This reflected sunlight in turn raises the air temperature immediately around the panels. Such a large number of panels has the potential to raise temperatures of the surrounding areas for wildlife, plants and humans creating a hotter mini-climate. This has not been investigated. A lot of research has gone into surface area required to power the earth but with some alarming negatives, one of which is localised temperature increases, another recycling of solar panels, maintenance, et cetera.

Also, noise during construction. Also noise, constant humming, of batteries storing energy and solar farm capturing whatever solar energy it can. I have not seen a scientific report on this.

Additionally, it appears Sunnica cannot finish the project should they be allowed to start and are seeking funding (Sunnica Energy Farm: What might a £600m solar farm mean for people nearby? - BBC News). This just exemplifies how unprepared and inappropriate and unfit Sunnica is for this project. Also, the number of shell companies involved is worrying. It demonstrates those involved want to put distance between themselves and when a huge accident happens. It is an obvious attempt to dimmish or remove responsibility.

Sunnica is based in Aylesbury, not Suffolk not East Cambridgeshire. The local people will be at risk for no gains as any electricity stored will go back to the grid in Burwell, 16 miles away.

The project has never been about

Thank you very much for your time once again considering my opposition to Sunnica but not to solar power. I am scientist and the lack of science or misleading reports claiming to be scientific is both concerning and extremely worrying. Sunnica do not care and are unfit should not be allowed to be involved in any solar project. Sunnica is not about solar farms but BESS – Battery Energy Storage Systems and the size (especially height) is extremely worrying. Even more worrying is the fact Sunnica and beneficiaries are no where near the proposed project site. The locals have to put up with building disruption and danger of BESS catastrophe. Please note, Mr Murray stated only one benefit to locals when he met with locals briefly. He stated it was 'improved business rates' – whatever that means.

Your Sincerely, Dr Simon Stafford.