

Case Manager  
The Planning Inspectorate  
Temple Quay House  
Temple Quay  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

Sent to: NorthLincolnshireGreenEnergyProject@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dear Sir or Madam,

## **NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE GREEN ENERGY PARK PROJECT**

### **THE PLANNING ACT 2008 AND THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE) RULES 2010**

#### **APPLICATION BY THE NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE GREEN ENERGY PARK LIMITED (“THE APPLICANT”) FOR AN ORDER GRANTING DEVELOPMENT CONSENT FOR THE PROPOSED THE NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE GREEN ENERGY PARK (“THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT”)**

We write further to the Ministerial Statement issued on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

In this Statement the Secretary of State exercised its power under section 107(3) of the Planning Act 2008 (the Act) to further extend the deadline for making a Decision to 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024. The reason given for this further delay was stated to be *"to allow for Defra to consider **the evidence gathered** by its review into the role of waste incineration capacity in the management of residual wastes in England."*

The original Ministerial Direction to pause the determination of environmental permits was made on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2024 and was in force until 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024. In Defra's letter to the Environment Agency of the same date Sir Mark Spencer confirmed that the Direction would *"allow a **short period** for Defra officials to lead a piece of work considering the role of waste incineration in the management of residual wastes in England."*

We have not seen any published output from Defra's work carried out during the Direction period and as such, are unable to make any further representations as part of the Application process. The Direction came to an end on 24<sup>th</sup> May and was not extended. It is unclear what further 'evidence' is currently being considered by Defra and therefore, the reason for the delay in the Decision. It is not clear that there is good reason for the Secretary of State to have exercised its power under section 107(3) of the Act.

We note that following the end of the Direction period, the planning permission and permit have now been granted for the Wisbech facility. As such, we assume there were no relevant concerns arising from Defra's work and it is not clear to us why our decision continues to be delayed.

The Secretary of State received the Examining Authority's report on the Application on 15 August 2023, and the original deadline for a decision was 15 November 2023. There has now been considerable delay in issuing the Decision on this Application. We appreciate that there has been a change in Government but note that the new Chancellor confirmed in her speech that *"we will give priority to energy projects in the system to ensure they make swift progress"*. Other delayed energy decisions have now been made and it is not clear why this Application suffers from continued delay.

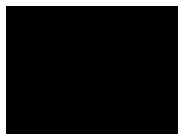
The Chancellor also asked that she be made aware of *"any investment opportunity with important planning considerations"*. The proposed development in the Application represents such an opportunity for the region, in short,

- (i) the development of a cutting edge energy park with the capacity to generate 95 MW gross of renewable energy and diverting waste from landfill;
- (ii) regeneration around Flixborough port including reinstatement of the railway and use of the wharf;
- (iii) significant employment during construction and operation of the facilities on site;
- (iv) a heat network to the local area, including the potential to serve commercial development as well as the major housing proposals in the vicinity at Lincolnshire Lakes; and
- (v) carbon capture capability from the outset with potential for connection to the future Humber carbon capture pipeline.

The continued delay has significant cost implications and is giving cause for concern, and especially creating uncertainty for investors. In particular, there are significant ongoing costs associated with maintaining the grid connection offer the Applicant has secured. This ought to be taken into account by the Secretary of State. We note that the Ministerial Statement confirms that the Department *"will always endeavour to issue decisions ahead of deadlines above wherever possible"* and as such, we urge swift consideration of this Application.

We would be grateful for your earliest response to this letter.

Yours sincerely,



Colin Hammond  
Head of Strategic Business Development