

Dear Examining Authority,

Interested Party Reference: 20048266

Submission Deadline 8 with a date of 17 December 2024

We act on behalf of National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (**NGET**) in respect of the Oaklands Farm Solar Park DCO. We would like to confirm that the status of the relevant Protective Provisions contained at Schedule 10, Part 2 of the Applicant's draft DCO remains the same, namely they are not agreed, and our client's objection therefore remains in place.

The parties are still trying to resolve an outstanding issue in relation to which they have not yet reached agreement in principle. Formal legal assurances in relation to the Protective Provisions are still awaited and therefore many of the issues referred to in NGET's written representation remain. However, the parties are working expeditiously to resolve this situation and therefore NGET respectfully suggests that it provides a further update before the ExA's report is sent to the Secretary of State.

In the meantime, we have appended a comparison against the Protective Provisions for the benefit of NGET as included in the current draft DCO and NGET's required Protective Provisions, to highlight the substantive differences. In particular, NGET requires:

1. its definition of "acceptable insurance" to be included. This provides insurance for a figure of not less than £50 million. NGET has established that the insurance value of £50 million is necessary to protect its apparatus from any damage or injury caused by the authorised works; and
2. its definition of "acceptable security" to be included and for the drafting at paragraph 21(7) to be included requiring the acceptable security to be provided. NGET requires either a parent company guarantee or a bank bond or letter of credit in favour of NGET to cover the Applicant's liability to NGET to a total liability cap of £50 million.

Yours faithfully,

Womble Bond Dickinson (UK) LLP