

Heckington Fen Solar Park

EN010123

Appendix 1 – Joint position statement with Ecotricity and National Grid

Applicant: Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Limited

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Pursuant to: APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)

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August 2023



**JOINT POSITION STATEMENT WITH
NATIONAL GRID ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION**

**BICKER FEN SUBSTATION EXTENSION &
HECKINGTON FEN DCO ORDER LIMITS**

Version History		
Version	Date	Version Status
Rev 1	June 2023	Change Notification

TABLE OF CONTENTS	2
GLOSSARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION	2
2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF CHANGES REQUIRED	2
3. JOINT POSITION	3

GLOSSARY

Applicant – Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Limited

CSE – Cable Sealing End

DCO – Development Consent Order

ESO – National Grid Electricity System Operator Limited

NGET – National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc

SQSS – Security and Quality of Supply Standard

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Limited (the **Applicant**) submitted its application for a Development Consent Order (**DCO**) for the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of solar photovoltaic (**PV**) generating panels with a total capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (**MW**) together with associated energy storage and grid connection infrastructure at the Bicker Fen National Grid substation (the **Proposed Development**) on 15 February 2023 (the **Application**). The Application was accepted for Examination on 13 March 2023 and the period for relevant representations closed on 9 June 2023.
- 1.2. The Applicant is proposing to submit a Change Application to the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State); prior to doing so the Applicant will submit a Change Notification in accordance with Advice Note 16.
- 1.3. This joint position statement accompanies the Change Notification and has been prepared by the Applicant and National Grid Electricity Transmission (**NGET**) to explain the reasons for the change and to demonstrate agreement on the proposals.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF CHANGES REQUIRED

- 2.1. The Application includes land and works at National Grid's Bicker Fen Substation (**Bicker Fen Substation**) to provide for a new generation bay for the Applicant together with works to facilitate the connection for the Applicant's project.

2.2. The proposed change relates to land at Bicker Fen Substation, which is under the ownership of NGET. The design of the new section of NGET infrastructure required at Bicker Fen Substation is acknowledged by NGET as still in development, and following submission of the Application, with ongoing discussions with NGET, it has become clear that additional works are needed as part of connecting the Applicant's Proposed Development. The works lie outside of the Order Limits at the Bicker Fen Substation. The works are necessary as a consequence of the Proposed Development and include:

2.2.1. a new section of NGET infrastructure at the substation comprising a busbar extension including a section breaker, a bus coupler and a feeder circuit on land to the south of Bicker Fen Substation, which is owned by NGET; and

2.2.2. a new cable sealing end (**CSE**) compound on land to the west of Bicker Fen Substation which is owned by NGET

(together, the "**Additional Works**").

2.3. Accordingly, a larger area (of approximately 0.9ha) is needed to deliver the Additional Works and to facilitate the Applicant's connection into the Bicker Fen Substation. The full extent of the land area covered by the change is shown in yellow and green hatching on Figure 1 of the Change Notification Cover Letter (document reference PreExA.CL.CN.v1).

3. JOINT POSITION

3.1. Both parties agree:

3.1.1. that the Additional Works are required in connection with the Proposed Development;



3.1.2. that the Additional Works are needed to be compliant with the loss of infeed risk at the Bicker Fen Substation in accordance with the Security and Quality of Supply Standard (**SQSS**) as stipulated by National Grid Electricity System Operator (**ESO**);

3.1.3. that this change is necessary and in keeping with the premise of the emerging National Policy Statement (EN-5) in relation to planning, designing, and building holistic and efficient networks such that the related infrastructure of a project can, as far as possible, be contained in a single application¹;

3.1.4. whilst Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) is a possibility and should be included within the envelope, no Sulphur Hexafluoride (SF6) will be used; and

¹ Paragraph 2.7.2 of National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5), draft for consultation dated March 2023

3.1.5. to work together to provide relevant documents and assessments to facilitate the Change Application.

Signed: 	Signed: 
Name: Ellie Laycock	Name: Asif Rehmanwala
On behalf of: National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC	On behalf of: Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Ltd
Date: 8 th June 2023	Date: Jun 9, 2023