

Susan Hunt
Examining Authority
By Email

Dear Ms Hunt

1 September 2023

Heckington Fen Solar Park Development Consent Order (application reference: EN010123)

Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Limited (the “Applicant”)

Response to Rule 6 Letter (our document reference – PreExA.Rule6Reply.v1)

Introduction

Thank you for the Rule 6 Letter dated 21 July 2023. We have reviewed the details and provided the responses below.

Please also treat this letter as the Applicant’s request to register for the Preliminary Meeting and Issue Specific Hearing 1 on 19 September 2023, and Issue Specific Hearing 2 on 20 September 2023.

1. Blended hearings:

The Applicant very much welcomes the use of blended events.

The Applicant expects a core team to attend the hearings in person but expects that the majority of technical experts will attend virtually, unless the ExA directs otherwise.

Accordingly, the Applicant would kindly request, to the extent possible, that the agendas are detailed and specific to allow the Applicant to engage with and book the relevant experts for each respective agenda item.

2. Procedural implications of NGET change / version control:

The Examining Authority (ExA) will be aware that the Applicant submitted a Change Application on 25 August 2023 to incorporate additional works at the National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) Bicker Fen substation (the “Change Application”).

The Applicant does not have any issues or concerns with the proposed timetable. The Applicant would, however, welcome clarification in respect of how the ExA wishes to deal with the NGET Change Application. In particular, the Applicant wishes to understand at what point might the ExA be in a position to decide whether or not to accept the change into the Examination.

As the ExA will be aware, the Change Application included updated versions of the relevant application documents with track-changes triggered by the amendment. The Applicant

therefore foresees a potential issue for version control for those documents submitted prior to a decision being made on the NGET Change Application. For example, in the event that a decision was not made on the NGET Change Application prior to Deadline 2, the Applicant welcomes clarification on which version of the application documents the ExA would wish the Applicant to use as the 'base document' (i.e. those already accepted into the examination or those submitted with the NGET Change Application).

In view of the above, the Applicant considers that it might be prudent to schedule a Procedural Deadline prior to Deadline 2 in order for the ExA to either communicate its decision on the NGET Change Application or to provide clarification as to which version of the application documents the ExA wishes for the Applicant to use as the 'base document' for Deadline 2 submissions.

The Applicant also notes that there is an early DCO hearing timetabled for 19 September 2023. Unless the ExA directs otherwise, the Applicant intends to use the s55 version of the DCO (document reference 3.1 / AS-008, version 2) (submitted on 28th March 2023) for the purposes of the DCO hearing. However, the Applicant can (unless directed otherwise) explain the DCO changes arising from the NGET Change Application.

Please let us know if there is any clarification or further detail you require.

Yours sincerely,

Laura White
Project Manager
Ecotricity

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