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Date: 25 January 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) – Rule 17

Application by Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Heckington Fen Solar Park

Request for further information and written comments

The Examining Authority (ExA) is writing in connection with the above mentioned Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project under Rule 17 of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended).

The ExA has previously notified that they intend to close the Examination early, before the statutory six month period as set out in the Examination Timetable [PD-010]. This is anticipated to be at **Deadline 6 (20 February 2024)**.

The ExA's second written questions (ExQ2) were issued on 19 December 2023 [PD-013] with responses due by Deadline 4 (16 January 2024). At Deadline 4 a number of responses to those questions were received from both the Applicant and Interested Parties. The Applicant provided an updated draft Development Consent Order (DCO) [REP4-014], Book of Reference [REP4-020], and Schedule of Negotiations with Statutory Undertakers and Landowners [REP4-018] (amongst other plans, documents and updates to the Environmental Statement).

However a number of responses to ExQ2 remain outstanding. There are also a number of unresolved negotiations relating to compulsory acquisition and/or temporary possession of land and rights, and some of the protective provisions as set out in Schedule 13 of the draft DCO [REP4-014].

A written request is therefore being issued for a response from the Applicant and the following Interested Parties to the matters set out in Annexes A to C of this letter.

- 1) Crown Estate Commissioners
- 2) Duchy of Lancaster
- 3) Environment Agency
- 4) Natural England
- 5) National Gas Transmission plc
- 6) National Grid Electricity Transmission plc
- 7) National Grid Viking Link Ltd
- 8) North Kesteven District Council
- 9) Schrodgers Greencoat (Bicker Fen Windfarm Ltd)
- 10) Triton Knoll OFTO Ltd

It should be noted that this request is in addition to the existing list of matters required for **Deadline 5** as set out in the Examination Timetable [Annex A 18, PD-010]. In particular, the Applicant and Interested Parties are reminded that the final Statements of Common Ground together with a list of matters not agreed are required with the following parties:

- 1) Relevant Planning Authorities: Lincolnshire County Council, North Kesteven District Council and Boston Borough Council
- 2) Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board (signing required only)
- 3) Environment Agency
- 4) Natural England
- 5) Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd
- 6) National Gas Transmission plc
- 7) National Grid Electricity Transmission plc
- 8) National Grid Viking Link Ltd
- 9) Triton Knoll OFTO Ltd

Responses to the requested information should be submitted by **23:59 on Deadline 5**, which is **Tuesday 13 February 2024**, to heckingtonfensolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk.

The parties are also reminded that Deadline 6 (20 February 2024) is for receipt only of summary statements and comments on submissions received at the previous deadline. This final Deadline should not be used as a submission date for other documents expected at Deadline 5 as set out in the Examination Timetable (Annex A 18, PD-010).

It should be noted that once the Examination has closed, the ExA cannot receive written representations from any party and will prepare its recommendation to the Secretary of State on the basis of the evidence available to it at the Examination's close.

Yours faithfully,

Susan Hunt

Examining Authority

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