

Ms Susan Hunt  
Examining Authority  
National Infrastructure Planning  
The Planning Inspectorate  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

**Our ref:** AN/2023/134163/07-L01  
**Your ref:** EN010123  
**Date:** 13 February 2024

Dear Madam

**Application by Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Limited (“the Applicant”) under the Planning Act 2008 for the Heckington Fen Solar Park Development Consent Order on land at Six Hundreds Farm, Six Hundreds Drove, East Heckington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire**

Pursuant to Deadline 5, the Environment Agency has reviewed the submissions made at Deadline 4 and has no comments to make on these.

We have received the Examining Authority’s letter dated 25 January 2024 and note that question A5 is directed to the Environment Agency to answer:

*The ExA understands that Protective Provisions are agreed [REP3-051]. Notwithstanding the Environment Agency’s submission at Deadline 4 [REP4- 060], with reference to pages 20-21 of the Schedule of Negotiations with Statutory Undertakers and Landowners [REP4-018], provide an update on the draft Option Agreement and Deed.*

The Environment Agency returned the draft Option Agreement and Deed to the Applicants Solicitor with amendments on 7<sup>th</sup> February. The Applicant’s Solicitor is currently taking client instructions (i.e. the Applicant), however is confident the parties can reach an agreement. The Environment Agency is currently waiting for the Applicant’s Solicitor to return the revised Option Agreement (including an option plan) and Deed by close of business on 16<sup>th</sup> February.

However, we have reviewed the project’s potential to impede the Environment Agency’s ability to carry out its flood risk management operations and we are satisfied that there is no reason to maintain our objection on these grounds.

Should you require any additional information, or wish to discuss these matters further, please do not hesitate to contact me at the number below.

Yours faithfully

**Annette Hewitson**  
**Principal Planning Adviser**

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