3-8 Whitehall Place London SW1A 2AW

www.gov.uk/desnz

To: Our Ref: EN010123

Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Limited The Crown Estate The Duchy of Lancaster Network Rail Infrastructure Limited National Grid Viking Link Limited Triton Knoll OFTO Limited

7 June 2024

Dear Sir or Madam,

Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

Application by Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Limited ("the Applicant") for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed Heckington Fen Solar Park ("the Proposed Development")

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

- Following the completion of the Examination on 20 February 2024, the Examining Authority submitted a Report and Recommendation in respect of its findings and conclusions on the above application to the Secretary of State on 9 May 2024. In accordance with section 107 of the Planning Act 2008, the Secretary of State has three months to determine the application.
- There are issues on which the Secretary of State would be grateful if the Applicant,
 The Crown Estate ("TCE"), The Duchy of Lancaster ("TDoL"), Network Rail
 Infrastructure Limited ("NRIL"), National Grid Viking Link Limited ("Viking
 Link"), and Triton Knoll OFTO Limited ("TK OFTO") could provide updates or
 information as appropriate.

Crown Land and Crown rights - the Applicant, TCE and TDoL

3. The **Applicant**, **TCE**, and **TDoL** should confirm whether all necessary consents have been obtained from TCE and TDoL pursuant to section 135(2) of the Planning Act 2008 to allow provisions relating to TCE and TDoL land or rights in an order granting development consent for the Proposed Development.

Unknown Interests – the Applicant

4. The **Applicant** should provide any update identifying relevant parties in relation to plots with unknown Category 1 and Category 2 land interests, including those for Plots 313 and 317.

Protective Provisions ("PPs") and legal side agreements – the Applicant, NRIL, Viking Link and TK OFTO

- 5. The **Applicant**, **NRIL**, **Viking Link** and **TK OFTO** should provide any updates regarding whether bespoke PPs have been voluntarily agreed upon since the close of the Examination. Where PPs are now agreed, copies should be provided. An update should still be provided if bespoke PPs have not been agreed.
- 6. If any further legal side agreements have been made for the protection of assets in relation to the Proposed Development, information on these should be provided by the **Applicant**, **NRIL**, **Viking Link** and **TK OFTO** as well.
- 7. Responses to the requested information should be submitted via the 'Have your say' link on the Heckington Fen Solar Park project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website by 23.59 on 21 June 2024.
- Responses will be published on the Heckington Fen Solar Park project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as possible after 21 June 2024: https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010123
- 9. This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's consideration of whether to grant or withhold development consent for the Heckington Fen Solar Park project or any part of the project. Nothing in this letter is to be taken to imply what the eventual decision might be or what final conclusions the Secretary of State may reach on any particular issue which is relevant to the determination of the application.

Yours faithfully



John Wheadon

Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery

Department for Energy Security and Net Zero