



To:  
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

Our Ref: EN010123

15 July 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**

1. 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. The Secretary of State issued a letter on 7 June 2024 (“the first information request”) to which several parties responded.
2. 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 further updates or information to the first information request as appropriate.

**Crown Land and Crown rights – the Applicant, TCE and TDoL**

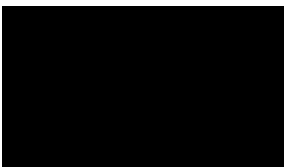
3. The **Applicant, TCE, and TDoL** should confirm whether all necessary consents have been obtained from TCE and TDoL pursuant to section 135(2) of the Planning Act 2008.
4. Given there were no responses from TCE or TDoL to the Secretary of State’s first information request, the **Applicant** should provide evidence of any outstanding issues from its latest correspondence with TCE and TDoL, redacted in part if necessary, and provide an accurate estimate of the time it expects will be required for these issues to be resolved. The Applicant should provide potential courses of

action for the Secretary of State's consideration if it considers the necessary statutory consents will not be obtained by the statutory deadline for taking this decision.

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

5. The **Applicant** and **NRIL** 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, including a copy that shows track changes against the original. 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** and **NRIL** as well.
7. **Viking Link** and **TK OFTO** previously confirmed PPs had been agreed with the Applicant and they should now confirm whether they have withdrawn their objections.
8. **Responses to the requested information should be submitted by email only to [heckingtonfensolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:heckingtonfensolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk) by 23.59 on 23 July 2024.**
9. Responses will be published on the Heckington Fen Solar Park project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as possible after 23 July 2024:  
<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010123>
10. 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