



To:
Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Limited

Our Ref: EN010123

9 August 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.
2. The Secretary of State issued letters on 7 June 2024 and 15 July 2024 to which several parties responded. Regrettably, on 5 August 2024, the Applicant requested time for further negotiations with landowners and to ensure the necessary permissions can be obtained. For these reasons, the Secretary of State has decided to grant a short extension past the statutory deadline of 9 August 2024. A statement confirming the new deadline for the decision will be made to Parliament following summer recess in accordance with section 107(7) of the Planning Act 2008.

Extension – the Applicant

3. The **Applicant** should justify why it considers a five-month extension is required. The Applicant should make clear the expected stages and timings which fall within that five-month period which justify the length of its proposed extension, noting that some information may be commercially sensitive.
4. **Responses to the requested information should be submitted by email only to heckingtonfensolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk by 23.59 on 11 September 2024.**
5. Responses will be published on the Heckington Fen Solar Park project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as possible after 11 September 2024:

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010123>

6. 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