



To:
Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Limited
The Crown Estate
Duchy of Lancaster

Our Ref: EN010123

11 October 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.
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 a five-month extension to the statutory deadline to allow time for further negotiations with landowners and to ensure that necessary permissions could be obtained. The Secretary of State decided to grant a shorter extension to 27 September 2024 in the hope that these outstanding issues could be resolved more quickly and issued a letter on 9 August 2024 requesting further evidence from the Applicant explaining the need for the five-month extension.
3. On 11 September 2024, the Applicant reiterated that an extension to 6 January 2025 was required to resolve ongoing negotiations with The Crown Estate. For that reason, the Secretary of State has therefore reluctantly decided to extend the statutory deadline to 24 January 2025. The extension to 24 January 2025 has been confirmed in a statement to Parliament in accordance with section 107(7) of the Planning Act 2008.

Outstanding Crown consents – the Applicant, the Crown Estate and the Duchy of Lancaster

4. The Secretary of State requires updated information from the **Applicant**, the **Crown Estate** and the **Duchy of Lancaster** on two occasions ahead of the new statutory deadline, in order to understand whether agreement is going to be

reached. If agreement has not been reached at the point of these updates, each party should provide an explanation setting out the reasons for this.

5. Responses to the requested information should be submitted by email only to heckingtonfensolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk:

in the first instance **by 23:59 on 22 November 2024,**

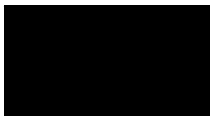
and in the second instance **by 23:59 on 8 January 2025.**

6. Responses will be published on the Heckington Fen Solar Park project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as possible after each deadline:

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

7. 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