

Monday 15th April 2024

IP Number: 20035925

To:

The Secretary of State, Claire Coutinho

I have been actively involved with this abominable application by Mallard Pass Solar Farm Limited (the Applicant) for an order granting Development Consent for the proposed Mallard Pass Solar Farm (the Proposed Development) since October 2021 when my family and I received a leaflet regarding this application. I have attended as many meetings (and hearings) as possible and registered as an Interested Party in order to be able to attend and contribute to the Examining Authority as part of this NSIP process. This was completed on November 16th 2023 where I understood the Examining Authority would collate all findings and submit their report to the Secretary of State on February 16th 2024.

My final letter of objection to this application on 16th November 2023, stated evidenced reasons for my considered objections. This Applicant had not produced sufficient correct information or detailed plans necessary to adequately understand the full impact in this change of farmland use from food producing adjacent to our village to one of industrialisation and a brownfield site for perpetuity. The Examining Authority did probe, chase and attempt to gather all the information necessary before the end deadline but the Applicant did not produce what was required for many aspects and, on some topics, refused to produce what was requested stating that only in the dDCO are the requested facts required and would be provided only in that, their final DCO application.

It is therefore even more alarming and with my deepest concern that this Applicant has still not, after 5 months beyond the deadlines that all UK residents had to adhere to, still not produced agreements and confirmations necessary for the SoS to consider within this application.

I cannot believe that the Department for Energy and Security, on 13th of March 2024, has requested that the Secretary of State "would be grateful" if the following information could be provided by the Applicant:

1. Whether an Option for Easement has been agreed with Network Rail regarding the cable crossing of the East Coast Main Line.
2. If no agreement then when confirmation of agreement will be provided to the Secretary of State.
3. Whether side agreements have been agreed with RCC regarding highway matters.
4. If no agreement then when confirmation of agreements will be provided to the Secretary of State.
5. Whether side agreements have been agreed with LCC regarding highway matters.
6. If no agreements then when confirmation of agreement will be provided to the Secretary of State.
7. Whether a draft Great Crested Newt district level licence application has been made and an IAPC has been issued.
8. If no draft or IAPC have been issued then when confirmation of this will be provided to the Secretary of State.

The cabling route either through a culvert under the railway line or through Essendine are incredibly important to all residents and the wider communities whose lives will be massively affected as well as changed for life. The Applicant promised this agreement to be provided by November 16th 2023 deadline at the latest! Compulsory Acquisition of the Essendine residents' rights of subsoil land, breaches human rights. The disruption with construction and maintenance will be immensely impactful. by noise, pollution, delays, and more for years! In fact, 60 years! This includes initial construction, complete replacement, maintenance and then disposal. Network Rail, as far as I can determine, has not replied to date! Whatever the reasons for the delay by MPSFL to reach an agreement is completely unacceptable! Accordingly, the Applicant has not provided this information when it should have done! This Applicant had already started their campaign preparation for this application at least 2/3 years prior to my/our first notification in October 2021. MPSFL has demonstrated incompetence, as well as untrustworthiness throughout this whole process. I challenge the system which has clear finite deadlines over which the general public, citizens and groups cannot extend

beyond in their comment period but allows this overseas developer ongoing extensions. This, to me, is not only unfair it seems flagrant abuse of the law within the system.

Both the RCC and the LCC have responded to this request but their response does not align with MPSFL. They both categorically say that no agreements have been finalised and signed. Both Councils cannot agree generically as both have incredibly different pressures and considerations. The area proposals for building hundreds of houses within a very small area of Lincolnshire coincides with this application e.g. Stamford North Great Casterton, Quarry Barn and several more. These cumulative problems will further impact on the highways and hence the residents in and around this whole area for many years.

The issue on the Great Crested Newts reflects the contemptuous disregard of the value and worth of wildlife by MPSFL. No mitigation will ever bring back the living flora and fauna annihilated by this proposed development.

MLSFL have not finalised draft agreements with LCC and RCC and should not request the SoS to agree this application on the premise that negotiations are ongoing and will be confirmed at a later date! ITS TOO LATE!

The Applicant is asking for this DCO to be allowed by the SoS without sufficient decisions, agreements and details being specified. THIS IS OUTRAGEOUS!

This Applicant has NOT met deadlines or given assurances but provides broken promises and contemptible denigration of this valuable land and its people. This Applicant has not been transparent in many of their responses and places no value in truth and honesty.

You, the Government, or any other subsequent Governments, need to consider the legacy you will leave to this country. This is not the only Solar Farm proposal for GB from overseas Developers. This is one of, so far, 120!

MPSFL are not proposing this with the best interests of the area and this country at heart.

The SoS has not requested any updates on Community Benefit Payments from MPSFL. I abhor the thought of this and actually regard this as a bribe. No amount of money would ever compensate for the loss of a life. So many will lose so many aspects of their chosen happy lives as well as being reminded of what has been lost every time they venture out of their homes. This is criminal.

Land grab and exploitation of the land and its people at this scale is unbelievable. I ask you the Government to place this country and its people first. Because we DO care and we WANT to live in the countryside. WHICH WE CHERISH.

It is completely pertinent at this point now to say that the Government needs to address the UK's energy needs within a long term joined up strategy and plan. The sheer size and growth in this country's population demands that Policies must change to prevent ground mounted solar utilities. This renewable energy source should be developed on rooftops and all new builds must have them included within their specifications. The Government must promote and support this. What better way for the Government to clearly demonstrate their duty of care for every single citizen. The Government needs to support farmers as land custodians to develop regenerative and sustainable practices and farm the precious land to protect food security for all its people. The Government needs to use the seas surrounding this Island by development of wave and wind renewables. Please stop this destruction of this country and the loss of wellbeing to the people within it.

Thank you for taking the time to read my response.

Please reject this application.

Yours sincerely

Linda E Davies

Resident of Ryhall