

Date: 15 April 2024

Ref: EN010127

Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery Team
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
3-8 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2AW

Dear Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery Team,

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Limited
The Planning Act 2008
The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

The Applicant has noted the 'Secretary of State's Request for Information' letter dated 2 April 2024. Whilst it is acknowledged that this letter is directed to Interested Parties, the Applicant considers that it may be helpful to update the Department on two matters of relevance to its determination of the application for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Firstly, the Applicant is pleased to confirm that it has now completed all relevant property agreements with Richard Williams in relation to his land contained within the Order Limits. This means that the Applicant now has the vast majority of the Solar PV Site under option, with the only exception being the Bradley family, who did not submit a representation to Examination and with whom the Applicant is confident that a deal will be struck.

Secondly, its discussions with LCC on the Highways Agreement have continued since the Applicant's previous response, and, as was the case at the time of its previous submission, the Applicant does not consider that there are any fundamental issues with the Agreement or significant amendments needing to be made. In particular it is noted that:

- the comments received from LCC on the working draft in late January 2024 did not raise any particularly substantive issues, with the focus more on legal effect and drafting issues;
- the Applicant had in its initial drafting agreed to provide the relevant information that would be ordinarily required under a section 278 Agreement; and
- in response to comments in the late January version from LCC, the Applicant committed to pay identified fees that LCC would expect to be paid ordinarily under a section 278 Agreement.

In this context, the Applicant is unclear why RCC made the comments that it did in response to your previous letter. In any event, as set out in its previous submission, whilst the Applicant is expending effort to seek to complete the Agreement as soon as possible, it does not need to be completed prior to the Secretary of State's decision, as LCC and RCC have the protection of the DCO drafting agreed by the Applicant highlighted in that submission.



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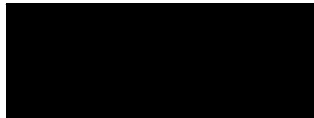


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In relation to other matters, the Applicant confirms that discussions with both Network Rail and Natural England are continuing, as such the position in respect of them is unchanged from its previous submission. Furthermore, the Applicant can confirm that it made the offer on community benefits to the LPAs referred to in its previous submission in the week commencing 1 April and awaits a response (noting again, however, that this issue is not a relevant matter in the planning balance).

If the Secretary of State or the Department's case team has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,



Sarah Price

Partner

DWD

For and on behalf of Mallard Pass Solar Farm



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