

Dear Sir

Application by Gate Burton Energy Park Ltd

The 7000 Acres Group write to submit the following issues in relation to the agenda items for the Preliminary Meeting 4th July 2023 as requested.

- Agenda Item 3

Initial Assessment of Principal Issues – Annex D

Item 1.1 General cross-topic questions

There appears to be no general question as to the extent to which the local community has been reached by the communication and consultation process carried out by the Applicant.

Item 1.2 Legislative and policy matters - Is this Application a misuse of the NSIP process?

- While technically the capacity of the proposed development is above 50MW, the degree of intermittency effectively reduces this to between 9-11% in practice. With potential future curtailment foreseen by National Grid, this would be further reduced. The average output is likely to be lower than 50MW over the lifetime of the asset. Therefore, in reality the proposals do not fall within the 50MW threshold to meet the NSIP criteria.
- The purpose of NSIP is to resolve issues of scale, where there can be no alternative to the use of land – e.g. a bypass, or transmission line, or reservoir. In this instance, the organisational and economic landscape disadvantages development on rooftops, (however preferential this approach is widely agreed to be).

Item 1.7 Extent of the Rochdale Envelope –

The worst case scenarios have not been explained by the Applicant and so the local consultation is flawed and failed to provide a reasonable degree of information to enable people to understand or be aware of what is actually intended.

Item 4 Climate Change –

The scope of 4.1 appears to be limited to total GHG emissions with likely Energy generated raised in 4.2.

These points do not represent the range of climate change and energy issues raised by the 7000 Acres Group amongst other Interested Parties in the Relevant Representations.

The scope of Item 4 should be extended to include:

- The competing land use requirements to meet climate change objectives, and the need for efficient land use.
- A clear understanding of the role the proposed development can play in the electricity system and examine beyond the amount of energy produced. For example, intermittency of production, curtailment, need for alternative supply, inability to store volume of power seasonally, are areas which need to be included.
- The policy basis for solar is not clear in that it does not explicitly support large scale solar development.
- There is no need to use 400kV Grid connections. In itself, this would be an inefficient use of national infrastructure.

- Agenda Item 4

Draft Examination Timetable – Annex E

The timeframe for residents to understand the letter sent from The Planning Inspectorate dated 31st May 2023, your ref: EN010131 has in effect removed and excluded people from the process. Most residents do not have expertise within this field or area of professionalism. The process, terminology and timetable are tailored for professionals within this line of work or realm of understanding. Residents and the general public need more time to understand and discuss the requirements with other interested parties so that they can then make a valid submission. This very short time frame is prejudicial and discriminatory to those concerned. As such, as interested parties we require timeframes to be longer and reasonable notice of deadlines to be given.

The scheduling of deadlines during summer school holiday periods inhibits interested parties ability to submit material and or attend events.

- Agenda Item 5

The interrelationship of Gate Burton Energy Park Project with other projects – Annex C

The number, density and inundation of several schemes mean that people are disadvantaged in the first instance in their ability to comprehend the enormity of the collective impact of the schemes. By not defining a Rochdale Envelope worst case scenario and only consulting within 2km of the boundary of the proposed scheme, the consultation has been severally limited.

This in turn leads to disengagement. We have heard many residents say that 'it's all a done deal'. Many people outside the 2km boundary are not aware of the extent of the project.

The nature and number of these applications in this small rural area is prejudicial to the local communities.

The volume of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects submitted to The Planning Inspectorate in recent months is beyond the scope and resources of The Planning Inspectorate. As such the examination of current schemes may be detrimentally effected.

How will a two person panel deal with this complex scheme along with the 3 other schemes in the West Lindsey District? In comparison, Sunnica, which is a single and smaller NSIP, had a panel of three inspectors.

As the other 3 projects will be evolving, how will the two inspectors for this scheme, keep track of those and their impact on the Gate Burton examination?

- Agenda Item 7

Any other matters

Suitability of Venue:

The four proposed NSIP schemes are within West Lindsey District. This is a rural district which has a separate identity to Lincoln City. A venue set in the area effected by the proposals is more valid in terms of representation and accessibility.

A suitable venue could be the Lincolnshire Showground.

Human and Equal Rights issues:

The venue for the Preliminary Meeting and subsequent Hearing limits Interested Parties ability to attend. The cost of parking at the hotel for

£14 per day is an expense many cannot afford. The region suffers from economic deprivation.

In addition to the above economic discrimination, many residents do not have the electronic devices or the skills to enable remote participation or the ability to take time from paid employment.

These procedural facets of the draft timetable and examination process create an actual and perceived atmosphere of exclusion from the decision making process for many residents and interested parties.

Signed J Allan

On behalf of 7000 Acres

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