

Barrowman, Spencer

From: Neil McBride [REDACTED]@lincolnshire.gov.uk>
Sent: 14 June 2023 23:08
To: Gate Burton Solar Project
Subject: Preliminary Meeting Submission Agenda Item 5 ID - IP272

The Council seeks more clarification on the measures set out in Annex C on how the cumulative impacts, especially with regard to landscape and traffic, are to be assessed.

It is the Council submission that the having 4 NSIP applications in a close geographical area in the same timeframe is a situation not envisaged when the 2008 Planning Act was drafted. Therefore need to look at different options for examining the application than currently set out in Annex C of the Rule 6 letter. The examinations of two of the other projects (Cottam and West Burton) expected to commence in September this should present an opportunity for a Issue Specific Hearing to consider the cumulative impacts of the 3 projects with the Examination Authority for each application in attendance.

In particular the cumulative landscape and visual impacts of these three applications together with Tillbridge Solar would create a sequential landscape of solar infrastructure evident to local residents travelling between settlements and facilities and also those visitors to the area enjoying the recreational opportunities and countryside of this locality. There would extensive sections of Public Rights of Way and highways exposed to views of solar infrastructure and result in a change of landscape from one of traditional agriculture to that of energy generation. It is the Councils view that these overlapping issues cannot be examined to the level that is justified for such a critical issue with the methodology currently proposed by the Examining Authority at Annex C.

Finally the Rule 6 letter commits to ensuring that the examination timetable for the 5 NSIP applications in Lincolnshire will be produced in a way that removes the potential for deadlines to overlap. The Council draws to the Examining Authority attention that Deadline 1 (18th July) is immediately following the week of Issue Specific Hearings for the Mallard Pass Examination where Council staff will be involved in that examination at the same time as having to prepare for the information required by Deadline 1. If there is already an overlap with 2 examination timetables the Council is extremely concerned that without some flexibility to extend and vary deadlines when all 5 examinations are running the Councils ability to fully participate and provide the level of challenge and scrutiny expected by local communities will be severely compromised.

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