

IP Reference: 20038528

On 10th August I received FOUR identical notification emails from NI Mail Distribution of the Preliminary Meeting (Rule 6 letter) Ref EN010132 stating the examination for Island Green Power West Burton Solar 1, 2 and 3 is starting on 7th September. I am dismayed to note this is immediately following the examination start of the Island Green Power Cottam Solar 1, 2 and 3 Project on 5th and 6th September.

When I attended the Preliminary Meeting in July for the Gate Burton Energy Park Solar Project, EN01013, I understood the Inspectorate previously stated these 3 schemes, which are affecting 30 communities, (4 schemes includes Tillbridge Solar), totalling 10,000 acres, and all proposed within a few miles of one another, could not be examined together. These schemes would be examined independently on completely different timelines to enable Interested Parties (IPs) to manage and read the multitudinous amount of information and be able to make submissions accordingly.

1. That these two schemes are going to be running concurrently, is discriminatory. To bestow Island Green Power with such an advantage and absolutely, unfairly, disadvantage Interested Parties and the affected communities in this way is unjust.

2. I will not have enough time to adequately assess each scheme, to make my submissions, to attend hearings and to participate in the process (unless I am awake 24 hours a day, seven days a week for an indefinite period) while endeavouring to honour my other commitments and lead a normal life !

3. Trying to keep on top of all the original and updated documentation on the Planning Inspectorate's website purely for the Gate Burton Solar Project process is causing me some disquiet, notwithstanding Island Green Power's West Burton Solar site and the Cottam Solar site coming one on top of the other.

4. This decision also puts an inexcusable amount of pressure on me as an IP, and conceivably other IPs, to keep track of and produce comprehensible and co-ordinated responses by the due dates/deadlines for submissions now arising and to which project they relate with a high risk of losing track of where each one is in the process.

5. I conclude this to be both prejudicial to me and again possibly other IP's, and is adding further unnecessary confusion to an already difficult to follow process made worse by the use of similar project names....one named West Burton Solar and another developer naming their proposal Gate Burton Energy Park.

6. As the West Burton and Cottam Solar schemes are now both ready to be examined and have been submitted by the same company, a total colossal 5,532 acres, which will engulf my village and neighbouring villages on 3 sides, just WHY can't they be examined as ONE scheme ? These schemes are all in West Lindsey District Council and jointly affect us and the area.

7. If each scheme is to be considered separately a sensible period between each, which I think is fair and reasonable, would be a gap of circa 6 months.

8. Also these 4 huge proposals referred to above, totalling 10,000 acres of BMV agricultural land, are not the only ones in Lincolnshire. There are at least 9 solar schemes proposed for this County alone.... the difference is that these 4 schemes are all within a few miles of each other.

9. It would appear that public participation in this process is of minor importance to the Inspectorate and this is of concern as, lamentably, the invitation to the Preliminary Meeting and Open Floor Hearing for the West Burton Solar Project scheduled for Thursday, 7th September is when people are at work and many will be unable to attend. The same applies for the Cottam Solar Project Preliminary Meeting dates.

Patricia Mitchell

18 August 2023