

M. J Dover

West Burton open floor summary.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment of the proposed West Burton Solar park.

1. I maintain my opposition to this and the other schemes presently being examined and those that have been submitted for examination 5 in total to date. The number of NSIPS and the desire, due to the cumulative impact, to have them considered as one mega site, has been mentioned by almost everyone. I fully support that view, but didn't mention it as it had been brought up by previous (and later) speakers.
2. Renewables are never going to power the nation, they are too dilute, inefficient, intermittent and dilute. Renewables (Wind & Solar) where designed more as a supplementary energy source, Solar in particular placed on residential or business rooftops can when weather permits, help to offset the high energy bills and collectively trickle excess into the grid (probably at much lower supply prices than these developers), it is in essence a win win situation.
3. Solar supplanted upon thousands of acres of fertile arable is tantamount to madness. Food security is increasing becoming more important, as a nation we import around 60% of the nations foodstuffs. If we continue to sacrifice the finite supply of farmland to Solar Sites, roads, housing and industrial warehousing, we will need to increase exponentially the amount of foodstuffs the country imports. The international food markets are experiencing rapidly increasing prices on certain commodities, Wheat & Grain due to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine , now unable to export in the normal quantities and the Embargo on Russian Wheat & Grain due to that conflict. Last Year too saw the International Rice harvest reduced by a third. These shortages naturally indicate that the expense of increased food importation will impact the country's economic stability. There is now more need to invest in farming and feed than Solar and Subsidies.
4. The Solar panels destined to despoil our rural landscape will in all probability be manufactured in China. This country is subject to allegations of dubious labour regimes that have been well documented in the media on an international level. In the manufacture of Solar panels and allied equipment use electricity that is generated by colossal coal fired power stations, the country is responsible for emissions in excess of 32.48% of world CO2 emissions, by contrast, UK emits 0.87%. China controls the mining & processing circa 93% of rare earth & critical minerals. The control is so complete that recently China has imposed export restrictions on Gallium and Germanium, both of these elements are vital in the production of semiconductors, thus of great import in many industries including defence. The problematic dilemma facing the the renewable industry and in fact the realisation of net zero via EV's is the quantity

of rare earth and critical mineral reserves. There is finite quantities of these and demand from the renewable & EV manufactures in exponentially increasing. But there is a dark side to this mining, the critical minerals & rare earth are not called “rare” for nought, they exist in minute quantities, which means the mining, mainly opencast, has to remove and process tens of millions of tons of earth and rock to realise a fraction of these elements. This leaves tailings and deep pits, vast square miles of landscape and nature are laid to waste, even worse are the toxic brine lakes that poison the land for centuries that are used in the process of the ore to extract the critical minerals. China also controls the Congolese mines/ market where child labour prevalent in the extraction of Lithium. China is a belligerent state, and will use market forces and the reliance on rare earths & critical minerals to punish or hold to ransom other nations, for example, in 2010 Japan arrested the captain of a Chinese trawler illegally fishing in territorial waters, after the trawler collided with the Japanese coastguard ship, China stopped all shipments of critical minerals and rare earths which were vital in the manufacture of hybrid cars and electronics, forcing Japan into capitulation, releasing the captain. A few years later in a fiscal attack on the US economy, China suddenly lowered the price of global Rare Earth Elements in order to force a US company that was operating the Mountain Pass Rare Earth Mineral Mine to become bankrupt. China holds the monopoly, it is a move toward national insecurity to become even more dependant upon China and in particular the energy sector.

5. Nuclear power is the way forward. It is a dense power source that requires little land footprint, it is safe, there are minimal emissions, it is reliant, it is efficient, it can operate on the existing grid network, it is easily balanced to demand. It will prove cost effective and the UK could probably build at least one nuclear power station with the funds used as subsidies (CfD & COO) to the wind turbine industry.

Thank you.