

Dr Rodney May and Mrs Nuala M May

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3 March 2024

Secretary of State for Net Zero, Claire Coutinho MP  
Parliamentary Office  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1 0AA

Dear Claire Coutinho

**Ref: Solar farms in the West Lindsey district of Lincolnshire**

We are writing with regard to the applications to construct four large solar farms in close proximity to where we live in Lincolnshire. The four solar farms shown on the attached map are Tillbridge, Cottam 1,2 & 3), West Burton (1, 2 & 3) and Gate Burton. All four are Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs).

Why are we writing to you? You are the Secretary of State for Net Zero, so we assume responsible for the policy regarding solar infrastructure. We have attended all relevant planning meetings and made our concerns in writing as instructed. However, our observations so far are that fundamental issues, which should be of concern to the nation, are not being given the appropriate prominence, when addressed with a multitude of other concerning points raised.

What are these fundamental issues?

1. Food security. We have personally observed the vast amount of food produced in the areas proposed for the solar farms. With our changing climate who knows what dependency will exist in the future for this food source, let alone today. To remove such a large amount of food production is surely a very short-sighted decision.
2. Quality of solar energy. Solar energy, without long-term mass storage, has a major deficiency particularly in countries like the UK. When it is required in winter it is least available; when it produces most in summer it is least required; and it is at great cost given the productive land removed from use. Hence, in our opinion, as a major reliable energy source it is of poor quality. We speak with some experience as we have solar panels fitted to the roof of our property.
3. Landscape industrialisation. The proposed solar panels when mounted are the height of a bungalow! Imagine thousands of bungalows adjacent to each other and stretching for miles all over the land. Hence the term "landscape industrialisation". It would surely destroy the rural environment of this area. Our walks locally from home will no longer be a pleasure and would probably be curtailed.

Concluding, despite the current extensive planning approval processes taking place, we are worried that this is a "tick-box" approach, rather than a logical review of the facts in order to come to the right decision. By "tick box" I refer to the UK goal to be able to generate "x" green energy by a future date irrespective of whether it makes sense when all other matters are properly considered.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Rodney and Mrs Nuala M May

