

Representation by EDF Energy (Thermal Generation) Limited (“EDF”) in respect of the Cottam Solar Project DCO Application (the “Project”)

This relevant representation is submitted on behalf of EDF Energy (Thermal Generation) Limited (“EDF”) requesting that EDF is treated as an Interested Party for the Examination of the DCO application for the Cottam Solar Project (PINS reference EN010133) (the “Project”).

EDF owns Cottam Power Station, a coal-fired station in close proximity to the proposed Order Limits, through which part of the proposed cable corridor of the Project will run. The station ceased generating in 2019 and EDF has responsibility for the safe decommissioning and demolition of the power station assets. Cottam Power Station houses critical live infrastructure for both National Grid and the adjacent Cottam Development Centre (CDC) which is owned and operated by Uniper.

The Book of Reference (“BoR”) identifies plots 18-385, 19-390, 19-391 and 19-392 (the “EDF Plots”) as land owned by EDF over which compulsory acquisition powers to acquire new rights and imposition of restrictions are sought. To safeguard EDF’s interests, and the safety and integrity of the ongoing decommissioning and continuing operations, EDF objects to the inclusion of the EDF Plots in the DCO and the compulsory powers in respect of such plots.

EDF will require appropriate protection to ensure that the Project does not jeopardise continuing operations (including those of the CDC) or site decommissioning and demolition. EDF’s rights of access to inspect, maintain, renew and repair such infrastructure must be maintained at all times and access to inspect and maintain such apparatus must not be restricted.

EDF are responsible for third-party critical infrastructure on the site (a make-up and purge line which supplies the CDC, a 400kV underground electricity cable and gas pipeline all owned by Uniper, underground and overground cables owned by National Grid, numerous cables owned by Western Power Distribution and potable water supplies). Any infrastructure or operations associated with the Project must protect this third-party infrastructure and be undertaken in full compliance with the terms of existing legal agreements and obligations.

The wider Cottam Site has been designated in the draft Bassetlaw Local Plan as a “Priority Regeneration Area,” and EDF wish to ensure that regeneration of the site is facilitated in line with the Council’s requirements and ambitions. It is therefore imperative that the proposed cable route does not sterilise development land or detract from future development plans.

EDF will require protective provisions to be included within the draft DCO for the Project to ensure that its interests are adequately protected and to ensure compliance with relevant safety, decommissioning and third-party obligations. Additionally, EDF recommend that a pre-commencement requirement be imposed under the DCO, if granted, related to the approval of the final cable routing and that EDF be a named consultee for subsequent discharge of such a requirement.

EDF is liaising with the Promoter in relation to the proposed route and such protective provisions, along with any supplementary agreements which may be required. EDF reserves the right to make further representations as part of the Examination process but in the meantime will continue to liaise with the Promoter with a view to reaching a satisfactory agreement.