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**From:** Simon Skelton <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** 12 August 2023 10:05  
**To:** West Burton Solar Project; Cottam Solar Project  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Unfair NSIP timetable

**Categories:** Deadline

Dear Planning Inspectorate,

I received my rule 6 letter today for the West Burton Solar Project.

Could you please explain to me why the examination timetable runs almost in parallel to the supposedly separate Cottam Solar Project, also by Island Green Power.

Are these, quite rightfully now being treated as one project?

These two applications were submitted many weeks apart, but are now to be examined at the same time, but by different Examining Authorities.

If they are still to be examined separately, then why were we advised that the 4 solar NSIPs that are proposed within a few miles of each other. West Burton, Cottam, Gate Burton and Tillbridge would have staggered examinations to enable fair community participation.

The message received today has been a real kick in the teeth and signals that local engagement is not considered important in this process.

This issue needs to be addressed as it is clearly unfair to expect the public to engage fully on multiple NSIPs without breathing space between hearings and deadlines.

6 months between each Examination to allow full participation would be fair, and is not a lot to ask?

One NSIP is difficult enough to get involved with but four at once would be impossible for most and is therefore undeniably wrong.

Please reconsider this timetable. Or as all four are all linked together, examine them as one?

Kind regards,

Simon Skelton.

Simon Skelton.

August 2023.

Dear Sir,

The Cottam Solar Project is the second of four NSIP solar proposals in my neighbourhood to enter examination.

The number and scale of proposed schemes in a short space of time is both distressing and confusing.

These applications need to be examined with this unprecedented cumulative impact at the forefront.

This is quite clearly one huge solar complex, with shared legal teams and proposed cable routes etc... Cottam and West Burton are by the same applicant and use the same project management.

Could the examinations be staggered by 6 months to level the playing field, instead of about 6 weeks between Cottam and Gate Burton and merely days between Cottam and West Burton?

The four NSIP proposals are not the only ones in Lincolnshire, there are 10 giant solar farms proposed for this county.

But these four are uniquely within a few miles of each other. The current examination timetable would be impossible to keep up with and participate in. Many residents are affected by all four schemes and their cumulative impact.

The dash for ground mounted solar seems to be an opportunistic free for all, with its inefficiencies seldom made public.

This unparalleled amount of proposed development in one area should not have gone unchecked. The potential level of harm has now been compounded to unthinkable proportions with residents having an unprecedented 4 schemes to contend with.

Early Developer meetings with the Planning Inspectorate which excluded the communities affected, makes me think that local views are not considered important. This all feels very undemocratic.

Public consultation came far too late in the process, and when it did the developer just told us what we wanted to hear.

This part of the process is demonstrably flawed.

I understand the reasons behind the NSIP concept. But in this case, with 4 proposals covering 10,000 acres and all within a few miles, makes me think that there should have been a point where someone stepped in and took a holistic overview of the potential devastating effects of scale.

I ask when does human compassion and common sense come into it?

Is 4 NSIP developments acceptable in one area, but 5 is not?

Or can the whole country be potentially covered in solar panels and batteries as long as the developers have completed all their reports?

The need and consequences of these schemes is not backed by any thorough technical strategy. It seems to be more like "suck it and see!"

I am extremely concerned by the sequence of events up to now, and strongly feel that no area deserves this scale of retrograde change and I believe that when given the facts, most people would agree.

I look forward to a fair examination and that I am able to demonstrate to the Examining Authority the serious issues with this scheme.

Thank you.