

Relevant Representation – Stonestreet Green Solar

This relevant representation is submitted on behalf of Southern Water Services Limited (“SWS”).

SWS is the appointed sewerage undertaker under the Water Industry Act 1991 for the area of the proposed development. As a result, SWS is subject to a number of strict statutory duties for the supply of water to c. 2.6 million people and providing sewerage services to c.4.6 million people. SWS is therefore a statutory undertaker for the purposes of section 127 of the Planning Act 2008.

We apologise that this has been submitted outside of the Relevant Representation period. As a statutory undertaker we respectfully request the Examiner exercises its discretion and accept SWS as an interested party for the purposes of the Examination process.

Should the proposed Development Consent Order (“the DCO”) be made to authorise EPL 001 Limited (“the Applicant”) to construct, operate and decommission solar photovoltaic arrays and energy storage, together with associated infrastructure and an underground cable connection to the existing National Grid Sellindge Substation (“the Scheme”), it would permit development within the Order limits in areas where SWS is responsible for providing sewerage services.

To fulfil its statutory duties, SWS maintains a wide range of apparatus that is critical to the continuing efficacy of its services. If made, the DCO would authorise the exercise of powers over or near land in which SWS maintains assets and/or has other rights for the purposes of discharging its statutory duties. Unchecked, the exercise of such powers in respect of SWS’s interests would cause serious detriment to it.

SWS notes the ‘standard’ set of protective provisions for the benefit of statutory undertakers contained in Part 3 of Schedule 12 to the draft DCO. SWS intends to engage with the Applicant on these matters going forward but absent such an arrangement having yet been formalised, SWS is obliged at this stage to formally object to the DCO application on the basis of the Scheme causing serious detriment to SWS’s apparatus and operations. SWS will engage with the Applicant with a view to reaching a satisfactory arrangement during the examination.

Southern Water Services Ltd

5 November 2024