

Competency

The examination of a proposal for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project should surely give some consideration to the competency of the applicants to plan, construct and deliver the project in a safe and timely manner that will provide the maximum benefit to the future energy needs of the country at minimum cost and causing as little harm to the environment and quality of life as possible.

The applicants should of course be able to provide evidence of their competency.

All the directors of EPL001, as listed at Companies House, appear to be investment professionals without proven engineering expertise of any kind, and, although they may have experience of financing similar, but much smaller, projects, there is no doubt that considerably more professional expertise will be required to deliver a project of this size and scope.

Allowing that any engaged contractors (or subsequent owners) are competent to complete the project, it remains likely that the choice of site and plan of works proposed have been prepared with the aim of maximising return on an investment rather than providing the best solution to the problems of siting a solar PV project of this size on agricultural land so close to a thriving village. Indeed the siting of the project is clearly dictated not by maximising generating capacity or minimising effect on the quality of life of residents but by the availability of the land, it being all the property of one individual.

The planning appears also to have been haphazard and the siting of BESS, inverters, and water towers is still uncertain. It is possible that should the proposal be approved in its present form, the site and surrounding area will be blighted by uncertainty, costs will be greater than anticipated, and the future of PV solar generation seriously impacted.