



RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Limited

FAO Jenny Savage
National Infrastructure Planning
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2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

By email only: byersgillsolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

13 August 2024

Dear Jenny,

**Development Consent for the Byers Gill Solar scheme: EN010139
Applicants submission – Deadline 1 (13 August 2024)**



On 30 July 2024, the Examining Authority (“ExA”) issued a letter under Section 89 of the Planning Act 2008 and Rules 8 and 9 of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (“the Rule 8 letter”) which confirmed the Examination timetable and procedure relating to the Byers Gill Solar Development Consent Order (DCO) application. The Rule 8 letter set out the submissions required by the ExA to be provided for each Deadline of the Examination.

On 30 July 2024, the ExA also published the Hearing Action Points relating the Preliminary Meeting (PM), Open Floor Hearings (OFH1 and OFH2) and Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) held in Darlington on 23 and 24 July 2024.

This letter encloses the Applicant’s summary of the submission made at Deadline 1, and provides an update on the progress made in relation to the relevant hearing action points.

Your sincerely,



Michael Baker
DCO Project Manager, Byers Gill Solar
Email: 
Telephone: 

SUMMARY OF DEADLINE 1 SUBMISSION

Please find below a list of documents which form the RWE (Applicant) submission at Deadline 1 of the Examination of the Byers Gill Solar DCO application:

- Cover letter (this letter)
- Introduction to the Application (Document Reference 1.2 Revision 2)
- Application Document Tracker (Document Reference 1.4, Revision 4)
- Summary of Applicant's Oral Submissions at ISH1, OFH1 and OFH2 (Document Reference 8.1)
- Comments on Relevant Representations (Document Reference 8.2)
- Applicant's draft itinerary for Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) (Document Reference 8.3)
- Statement of Commonality (Document Reference 8.4)
- Statement of Common Ground with Durham County Council (Document Reference 8.4.1)
- Statement of Common Ground with Stockton Borough Council (Document Reference 8.4.3)
- Statement of Common Ground with Historic England (Document Reference 8.4.5)
- Statement of Common Ground with National Highways (Document Reference 8.4.7)
- Statement of Common Ground with Bishopton Villages Action Group (Document Reference 8.4.8)
- Statement of Common Ground with Bishopton Parish Council (Document Reference 8.4.9)
- Statement of Common Ground with Redmarshall Parish Council (Document Reference 8.4.10)
- Statement of Common Ground with Stillington and Whitton Parish Council (Document Reference 8.4.10)
- Compulsory Acquisition Schedule (Document Reference 8.5)
- Statutory Undertakers Position Statement (Document Reference 7.7, Revision 2)

STATEMENTS OF COMMON GROUND

The Rule 8 letter lists a number of Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs) requested by the ExA to be produced jointly by the Applicant and third parties. As listed above, a number of these SoCGs are provided at Deadline 1 as requested. The accompanying Statement of Commonality (SoC) (Document Reference 8.4) sets out the status of all SoCGs in production, including those not submitted at Deadline 1. Where they have not been submitted, or have not been prepared as requested by the ExA, this is set out in the SoC. The information in the SoC, and throughout this submission, reflects the position prior to 3pm on 13 August 2024 (i.e. the day of the deadline). Any information received after this time has not been feasible to include in the deadline submission but will be provided at a future deadline.

The SoCG with Bishopton Villages Action Group (Document Reference 8.4.8) and the SoCG with Bishopton Parish Council (Document Reference 8.4.9) are submitted as received from those organisations prior to the deadline. The Applicant has not reviewed its position in those latest versions and intends to do so at a future deadline in response to the updated position provided by those parties in their SoCGs.

UPDATE ON HEARING ACTION POINTS

To aid the ExA, the Applicant provides an update below on the progress of Hearing Action Points as issued on 30 July 2024 for the Preliminary Meeting [EV2-006] and Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) [EV3-005]. The Applicant will seek to provide an update on these at each Deadline and will include Action Points arising from any other hearings as they occur. The Action Points listed below relate only to those assigned to the Applicant and do not update on those solely for third parties.

| No | Action | Deadline | RWE Update |
|------------------------|---|----------|---|
| PM1 | Applicant to develop Bishopton Parish Council to progress the SoCG. | 1 | SoCG shared with Bishopton Parish Council and provided in draft at Deadline 1 (Document Reference 8.4.9). |
| PM2 | Confirmation that Applicant is happy to prepare a SoCG with Bishopton Village Association Group (BVAG) and this should be pursued once decision is made by ExA | 1 | The Applicant confirms it is happy to prepare SoCG with BVAG. A draft document has been progressed and is submitted at Deadline 1 (Document Reference 8.4.8). |
| ISH8 | Provide responses, separate and individually, to each one of the ISH action points 1 to 7 (inclusive) | 2 | These will be provided at Deadline 2. |
| ISH (no number) | Applicant to provide further explanation of the principles which have informed the design and layout of the Proposed Development, which should also address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - calculations demonstrating the expected generating capacity of the Proposed Development. - an explanation of the previous reduction or removal of panel areas. - the potential to consolidate the maintenance equipment for the Proposed Development to a single onsite location | 2 | This is under preparation by the Applicant and will be provided at Deadline 2. |
| ISH10 | Provide further information about the proposed Community Benefit Fund including the Applicant's approach to community consultation and proposals for the administration of the fund in response to action 9. | 2 | This is under preparation by the Applicant and will be provided at Deadline 2. |

| No | Action | Deadline | RWE Update |
|--------------|---|----------|---|
| ISH11 | Engage with Northern Powergrid to obtain confirmation of capacity at Norton substation in light of all the solar energy projects in the area and the cumulative effect of this on the substation. | 2 | The Applicant is engaging with Northern Powergrid. An update is provided at Deadline 1 in the Statutory Undertakers Position Statement (Document Reference 7.7, Revision 2) |
| ISH12 | Provide a further written explanation of the Applicant's approach to delivering the on-road cable route without acquiring subsoil interests, to include an explanation of how the proposed DCO powers drafted by the Applicant are consistent with previously granted DCOs. | 2 | This is under preparation by the Applicant and will be provided at Deadline 2. |
| ISH13 | Submit PowerPoint presentation which was shared with all parties during the ISH1 ad Deadline 1 for comments by all IPs | 1 | This is provided at Deadline 1, appended to Summary of Applicant's Oral Submissions at ISH1, OFH1 and OFH2 (Document Reference 8.1) |