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Chancellor is urged to reverse cut



Pressure mounts on Reeves over winter fuel payments

PLEAS from North East Labour politicians have added to growing pressure on the Labour Government to reverse controversial plans to cut winter fuel allowance.

Cross-party councillors in County Durham and Darlington have staged protests against the decision, meaning millions of pensioners across the UK will not receive the payments –

By Bill Edgar

worth up to £300 – this winter. More than 100,000 pensioners across the two regions are thought to be affected by the changes, which Chancellor Rachel Reeves, left, stood by at Labour's party conference yesterday.

FULL STORY: PAGE 12



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Notification of Issue-Specific and Compulsory Acquisition Hearings under Rule 13(6) of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 Byers Gill Solar Development Consent Order Sections 91 and 92 of the Planning Act 2008 Rule 13(6) of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

- NOTICE OF HEARINGS RELATING TO BYERS GILL SOLAR
- Notice is hereby given that at the dates, times and locations set out below, three issue specific hearings and a compulsory acquisition hearing will be held by the Examining Authority (appointed by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero ("the Secretary of State")) for the
- by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net 2ero (the Secretary of State)) for the examination of the application made by RWE by RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Limited (registered company number: 14539260) of Windmill Hill Business Park, Whitehill Way, Swindon, Wittshire, England, SN5 6PB ("the **Applicant**"). The Application was made to the Secretary of State (via the Planning Inspectorate) under section 37(2) of the Planning Act 2008 on 9 February 2024 and was accepted by the Planning Inspectorate for examination on 8 March 2024. The Application has been given the Planning Inspectorate reference number: EN010139. 1.2
- SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT
- SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT Byers Gill Solar consists of a solar farm capable of generating over 50MW Alternating Current (AC) of electricity with co-located battery energy storage system ("BESS"), located between Darlington and Stockton-on-Tees in north-east England (the "Proposed Development"). The Proposed Development is approximately 490ha and comprises six Panel Areas (groups of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels) (Panel Areas A-F). The solar PV panels would be mounted on a metal frame in groups, fixed in position with panels facing south. An on-site substation would be located within Panel Area C. The Proposed Development includes up to 32.5km of 33kilovolt (kV) underground cabling between the Panel Areas and the on-site substation, as well as approximately 10km of 132kV underground cable to connect the Proposed Development to the grid connection at the existing Norton substation (located to the north-west of Stockton-on-Tees). This cabling could be placed either within roads or through off-road options. 21
- 2.2 through off-road options.
- A range of supporting infrastructure is required for the Proposed Development, comprising: BESS 23 transformers and inverters; storage containers to hold this equipment; and security measured s such
- transformers and inverters; storage containers to hold this equipment; and security measures such as fencing, CCTV and lighting. As the Proposed Development would be able to generate over 50 megawatts (MW) of electricity, it is considered to be a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) which requires consent through the Development Consent Order (DCO) process. This is an application made to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) and decided by the Secretary of State (SoS) in accordance with the 24 Planning Act 2008.
- A map showing the location of the Proposed Development can be viewed on the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website at the following address: https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010139/ 25
- documents The DCO, if granted, would enable the acquisition new rights over land and contain powers for the proposed to facilitate the construction of the Proposed 2.6 Development). The DCO would enable the acquisition new rights over hand and contain powers for the proposed Development). The DCO would also authorise the construction of the Proposed Development). The DCO would also authorise the construction of temporary and permanent accesses to the Proposed Development, the temporary stopping up or diversion of public rights of way, street works and highway works, and the application and disapplication of certain legislation. **UPCOMING HEARINGS** The Examining Authority's Rule 13 letter, dated 17 September 2024, provides notification that four hearings in relation to the application are to be held at the dates and times set out in the table below.
- below
- All hearings will be held as blended events both in-person at the **Dolphin Centre**, Horse Market, 32 3.3
- Darlington, DL1 5RP and virtually on Microsoft Teams. Live streams will also be provided for each Hearing and the link for this will be available on the day via the Byers Gill Solar page of the Planning Inspectorate's website: https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010139
- 3.4 Full details of how to attend and speak at the hearings are set out in the Examining Authority's Rule 13 letter available via the website link above. 3.5
- Interested Parties wishing to speak at the Hearings listed below should notify the Planning Inspectorate by completing the Event Participation Form. A link to the form will be available within the Rule 13 letter.
- If you require assistance to register your attendance, please contact the Planning Inspectorate by calling 0303 444 5000 or by email byersgillsolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk and quote the Application's reference number: EN010139. 3.6

Date	Hearing Type and Topic(s)	Time
Tuesday 15 October 2024	Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) on Environmental Matters: • Principle of the Proposed Development • Historic Environment	Registration and seating available at venue from: 09:00 Virtual Registration Process from: 09:30 Event starts: 10.00
Tuesday 15 October 2024	Issue Specific Hearing 3 (ISH3) on Environmental Matters: • Traffic and Transport • Water Environment and Flood Risk	Registration and seating available at venue from: 13:30 Virtual Registration Process from: 13:30 Event starts: 14:00
Wednesday 16 October 2024	Issue Specific Hearing 4 (ISH4) on Environmental Matters: • Landscape and Visual • Development Consent Order (DCO)	Registration and seating available at venue from: 09:00 Virtual Registration Process from: 09:30 Event starts: 10.00
Wednesday 16 October 2024	Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH1)	Registration and seating available at venue from: 15:30 Virtual Registration Process from: 15:30 Event starts: 16:00

Any hearings further to those listed above will be advertised by one or more further notices. In accordance with Rule 13(3) of Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010, as 3.7 amended, the Planning Inspectorate will also notify interested parties of the date, time and place

- and the fixed for each hearing.3.8 For more information on these hearings, the examination of the Application and full timetable (and any amendments to it), including how and when to register to speak at the hearings and how and when to make written submissions, please contact the Planning Inspectorate using the contact determines the present of the other section.
- APPLICATION FORM AND ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS
- The Application form and its accompanying documents (including accompanying plans, maps, the Environmental Statement and Non-Technical Summary, and the draft Order) (together, the "Application Documents") can be viewed and downloaded free of charge online on the Byers Gill Solar page of the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website under the Documents tab: https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/ 4.1 Documents tab: http EN010139/documents
- The Application Documents can also be viewed and downloaded free of charge on the Applicant's 4.3
- An electronic copy of the Application Documents can also be viewed and downloaded nee of charge on the Applicant's project website: https://byersgillsolarfarm.co.uk/documents/ An electronic copy of the Application Documents can also be provided free of charge on a USB memory stick, upon request. To request a USB, please contact the Applicant using the contact details provided below. All Application Documents are available for public inspection at the following places and times using outed library membership:

using a valid library membership

	L	Venue	Opening hours*	
			Monday 9 am – 6 pm Wednesday 9 am – 5 pm Friday 9 am – 5 pm Sunday - Closed	 Tuesday 9 am - 6 pm Thursday 10 am - 6 pm Saturday 9 am - 4 pm
		Norton Library, 87 High Street, Norton, TS20 1AE	Monday 9:30 am – 5 pm Wednesday 9:30 am – 7 pm Friday 9:30 am – 7 pm Sunday - Closed	 Tuesday 9:30 am - 5 pm Thursday 9:30 am - 5 pm Saturday 9:30 am - 1 pm

Please note that opening hours are subject to change. Please check and confirm opening times

With the venue if planning a visit. The full suite of Application documents can be made available in hard copy format on request to the Applicant at a cost of £2,194.00 per copy. For any bespoke or hard copy document requests (for example in large print, audio or braille formats) please contact the Applicant using the contact details below, who will provide the cost. Copies of individual documents are also available on request on a respensible company. 4.5 request and a reasonable copying charge may apply. Applicant Contact Details

If you have any questions about the Application Documents or wish to request copies on a USB, you can email enquiries@byersgillsolar.com, write to FREEPOST Byers Gill Solar, or contact the Applicant by telephone on 0800 197 0118. 4.6

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