



HELIOS RENEWABLE
ENERGY
PROJECT

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Pursuant to:
APFP Regulation 5(2)(h)

Funding Statement

June 2024



Helios Renewable Energy Project

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Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN010140

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Prepared on behalf of Enso Green Holdings D Limited

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Stantec
7 Soho Square
London
W1D 3QB

Tel: 020 7446 6888



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1. Introduction

- 1.1.1. This Funding Statement has been prepared on behalf of Enso Green Holdings D Ltd (the ‘Applicant’) as part of an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the Helios Renewable Energy Project (the ‘Proposed Development’).
- 1.1.2. The Proposed Development comprises the installation of ground mounted solar arrays, battery energy storage system and associated development comprising grid connection infrastructure and other infrastructure integral to the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of the development for the delivery of over 50 megawatts (MW) of electricity.
- 1.1.3. A DCO is required for the Proposed Development as it meets the definition and thresholds for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (an ‘NSIP’) under Sections 14 and 15(2) of the Planning Act 2008 (‘PA 2008’). The draft DCO contains provisions for the compulsory acquisition of rights in land (including the creation of rights and the imposition of restrictive covenants) and the temporary possession of land to facilitate the Project.
- 1.1.4. A detailed description of the Proposed Development is provided at Schedule 1 (Authorised Development) to the **draft DCO [EN010140/APP/3.1]** and **Chapter 3: Site and Development Description [EN010140/APP/6.1.3]** of the **ES**, and the areas within which each of the main components of the Proposed Development are to be constructed are shown coloured and hatched on the **Works Plans [EN010140/APP/2.3]**.
- 1.1.5. This statement has been prepared as required by Section 37(3) of the PA 2008 and Regulation 5(2)(h) of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (‘APFP Regulations’) which provides that:
- “if the proposed order would authorise the compulsory acquisition of land or an interest in land or right over land, [the application must be accompanied by] a statement of reasons and a statement to indicate how an order that contains the authorisation of compulsory acquisition is proposed to be funded”.*
- 1.1.6. In preparing this statement the Applicant has considered guidance in DCLG, ‘Planning Act 2008: Guidance related to procedures for the compulsory acquisition

of land' (September 2013).

- 1.1.7. Consideration has also been given to general guidance for compulsory acquisition of land and interests in land in DLUHC Guidance on Compulsory purchase process and The Crichel Down Rules (July 2019).
- 1.1.8. This Statement is one of a number of documents accompanying the Application and submitted to the Secretary of State and should be read in conjunction with those documents, in particular the Statement of Reasons.

2. Capital Funding

- 2.1.1. Enso Green Holdings D Limited (company number: 12762856) is the Applicant for the DCO. The Applicant has been formed to create and develop the Proposed Development and is a company registered in England and Wales.
- 2.1.2. Enso Green Holdings D Limited is the beneficiary of a grid connection agreement with National Grid to connect the Proposed Development to the grid.
- 2.1.3. Enso Green Holdings D Limited is owned by Enso Green Holdings Limited (company number: 12153574), which is a joint venture partnership between Enso Energy Limited (company number: 09892057) and Cero Generation Holdings UK Limited (company number: 12318275). Cero Generation is a Macquarie Asset Management portfolio company operating on a stand-alone basis.
- 2.1.4. Enso Energy is one of the UK's most experienced renewable energy developers, with an unparalleled focus on solar energy. Cero identifies, develops, builds and operates utility scale solar energy and battery storage projects across eight European countries, and by doing so responsibly, we are helping communities to thrive across Europe and beyond.
- 2.1.5. For nearly two decades, Macquarie has been investing in renewable energy and now has a secure foothold in all established and many of the emerging energy transition technologies. So far, Green Investments, which Macquarie acquired in 2017 and which started out as the UK's Green Investment Bank in 2012, has committed or arranged more than £26 billion (\$32.4) While utilising dedicated energy transition strategies and expanding partnerships, the team also oversees transition-related investments.

2.2. Project Cost

- 2.2.1. The current cost estimate for Helios Renewable Energy Project is approximately £230 million.
- 2.2.2. This estimate covers all aspects of the proposed development including construction, preparation, installation of equipment, supervision, acquisition of all necessary proprietary rights, commissioning and achieving commercial operation.

2.3. Project Funding

- 2.3.1. Enso Green Holdings D Limited is owned by Enso Green Holdings Limited of which Macquarie Group Limited is ultimately a joint venture partner via its standalone operating company Cero Generation. The most recent consolidated accounts for Macquarie Group Limited are provided in Appendix 1.
- 2.3.2. Macquarie Group is committed to the delivery of the proposed development and to date has already invested approximately £2 million of its own capital in costs associated with preparing the application and securing land rights. It will also be funding the significant costs in taking the application through examination.
- 2.3.3. If the Secretary of State grants development consent for the Proposed Development, as is common in privately funded infrastructure projects, Enso Green Holdings D Limited would seek further funding with the support of its legal and financial advisors at Macquarie Group Limited. A final decision has not yet been taken on the type of finance that will be used and that will ultimately depend on the cost and availability of debt and equity at the point at which the development reaches financial close, but there are no concerns that it would be unable to obtain finance for the construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed development as the United Kingdom remains an attractive territory within which to invest in renewable technologies.
- 2.3.4. Macquarie Group has significant experience in delivering multiple projects across the UK and worldwide using this structure.

3. Funding for Acquisition of Rights and Blight

- 3.1.1. The delivery of the Project requires the acquisition of rights (including the creation of rights and the imposition of restrictions) in, under, over land, and the temporary possession of land.
- 3.1.2. As set out in the **Statement of Reasons [EN010140/APP/4.2]** the Applicant has already secured a number of voluntary agreements over the land required. However, compulsory acquisition powers are required to ensure that the Project can proceed without impediment.
- 3.1.3. The current cost estimate (see paragraph 2.2 above) includes an amount to cover the total cost of the payment of compensation for the compulsory acquisition included in the DCO and required for the Project.
- 3.1.4. Should any claims for blight arise as a consequence of the Application, the Applicant has sufficient funds through Macquarie Group Limited to meet the cost of acquiring these interests at whatever stage they are served. However, the Applicant has not identified any holders of interests in the DCO land who it considers could be eligible to serve a blight notice.
- 3.1.5. In order to ensure that sufficient funds are in place or security is provided prior to powers of compulsory acquisition being exercised, the draft DCO includes Article 46, which prevents the exercise of the compulsory acquisition powers until the Secretary of State has approved a form of security from the Applicant. This form of article is now common practice in privately funded development consent orders.