



HELIOS RENEWABLE
ENERGY
PROJECT

PINS Document Number:
EN010140/APP/1.1

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

Application Cover Letter

June 2024



Helios Renewable Energy Project

Covering Letter

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN010140

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Prepared on behalf of Enso Green Holdings D Limited

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The Planning Inspectorate
National Infrastructure Directorate
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol
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Dear Sir/Madam

Planning Act 2008 – Application for a Development Consent Order for Helios Renewable Energy Project

Application reference: EN010140

On behalf of Enso Green Holdings D Limited (the Applicant), I am pleased to enclose an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO)(the Application) pursuant to Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008) for the proposed Helios Renewable Energy Project (the Proposed Development).

1.1. Subject of the Application

- 1.1.1. The Application for development consent comprises the installation of ground mounted solar arrays, battery energy storage system (BESS) 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.
- 1.1.2. The Application is required because the Proposed Development is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) pursuant to sections 14(1)(a) and 15(1) and (2) of the Planning Act 2008, as an onshore solar generating station in England with a capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW). As such, the decision on whether to grant development consent will be made by the Secretary of State for Energy and Net Zero (Secretary of State). The NSIP and associated development are described in Schedule 1 of the **draft DCO [EN010140/APP/2.1]**.

1.2. Application Fee and documentation

- 1.2.1. The necessary fee required to accompany the application for Development Consent is £8,796. This has been paid to PINS directly, via Bank Transfer (BACS), on the 20th June 2024.

- 1.2.2. Application documents have been shared with PINS via SharePoint. The Application has been shared with the relevant contacts provided to the Applicant by The Planning Inspectorate on the 1st July 2024.
- 1.2.3. The GIS Shapefile, outlining the site location of the Proposed Development was shared with PINS, via email, on 16th April 2024.
- 1.2.4. A section 55 Checklist [EN010140/APP/1.2] has been completed by the Applicant and has been included within the Application to assist with the Planning Inspectorate's compliance check.

1.3. Application Formalities

- 1.3.1. This Application is made in the form required by Section 37(3)(b) of the PA2008 and the application documents comply with the requirements in Section 37 of the PA2008 and those set out in:
- The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009;
 - The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017;
 - The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG, now known as the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) 'Planning Act 2008 – Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects – Application Form Guidance' (June 2013);
 - The Planning Inspectorate's 'Advice Note 6: Preparation and Submission of Application Documents' (August 2022)

1.4. The Proposed Development description

- 1.4.1. A shortened description of the Proposed Development is included within the **Guide to the Application [EN010140/APP/1.4]**. A more technical and detailed description of the Application can be found in **Environmental Statement (ES) Chapter 3: Site and Development Description [EN010140/APP/6.1.3]**.

1.5. Need for the Proposed Development

- 1.5.1. The Proposed Development will support the UK's net zero target by generating large-scale) low carbon electricity which could be operational by 2029, contributing to the UK Government's goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2050. The Application is

accompanied by a Statement of Need, within the submitted **Planning Statement [EN010140/APP/7.1]**, this provides a detailed case in support of the Application in the context of Government policy on energy infrastructure.

1.6. Consent flexibility

- 1.6.1. The design of the Proposed Development has been developed to a sufficient level of detail as to allow the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and DCO Application examination to take place.
- 1.6.2. The design of the Proposed Development cannot be finalised until the tendering process for the design has been completed and the detailed design has been approved in advance of the Proposed Development commencing (or phase thereof). This is to allow for flexibility to accommodate changes in technological advancements. For example, the enclosure or building sizes may vary depending on the contractor selected and their specific configuration and selection of plant.
- 1.6.3. In order to maintain flexibility in the design and layout at this stage in the process, the assessment of the Proposed Development, in accordance with NPS EN-1, has adopted the Rochdale Envelope approach, as described in the *PINS Advice Note Nine: Rochdale Envelope* (July 2018). This involves specifying parameter ranges, including details of the maximum, and where relevant the minimum, size (footprint, width, and height relative to above ordnance datum ('AOD')), technology, and locations of the different elements of the Proposed Development.
- 1.6.4. The use of the Rochdale Envelope approach has been adopted to present an assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development. More detail on the parameters used is presented in Table 3.2 of **ES Chapter 3: Site and Development Description [EN010140/APP/6.1.3]**

1.7. Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 1.7.1. The Application includes **Information to inform HRA [EN010140/APP/6.3.8.9]** as required by Regulation 5(2)(g) of the APFP Regulations. This report identifies all relevant European Sites potentially affected by the Proposed Development and sets out the screening undertaken for the purposes of the Habitat Regulations.
- 1.7.2. This report provides sufficient information for the Secretary of State to undertake an appropriate assessment to determine whether the Proposed Development would have an adverse effect on any European Sites.

1.8. Compulsory Acquisition

- 1.8.1. The land over which the Applicant is seeking powers of compulsory acquisition of land, rights and interests and powers of temporary possession in the draft DCO for the purposes of the Proposed Development is listed in the **Book of Reference [EN010140/APP/4.1]**. The **Statement of Reasons [EN010140/APP/4.2]** provides details of the powers sought and negotiations to date.
- 1.8.2. Details of the adequacy of the funding for compensation are provided in the **Funding Statement [EN010140/APP/4.3]**.

1.9. Pre-Application Consultation

- 1.9.1. As required by section 37(3)(c) of the Act, a **Consultation Report [EN010140/APP/5.1]** and **Consultation Report Appendices [EN010140/APP/5.2]** accompany this application. These documents detail compliance with sections 42, 46, 47, 48 and 49 of the Act.
- 1.9.2. In accordance with section 50(3) of the Act, the Applicant has had regard to the Secretary of State's guidance about pre-application procedure, being the (then) Department for Communities and Local Government's Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process.

1.10. Other consents

- 1.10.1. A summary of other consents and agreements likely to be required in addition to those being requested as part of the draft DCO is provided in the **Consents and Licences Position Statement [EN010140/APP/3.3]**.

1.11. Other matters

- 1.11.1. As required under Regulation 5(3) of the APFP Regulations, all relevant application document plans, drawings or sections provided under Regulation 5(2) are no larger than A0 size, are drawn to an identified scale (not smaller than 1:2500) and, in the case of plans, show the direction of north.
- 1.11.2. In accordance with Regulation 5(5) of the APFP Regulations, the Applicant retains all responses to the consultation carried out under Part 5 of the PA 2008 and can make them available at the request of the Planning Inspectorate and/or the Secretary of State.

1.11.3. The Applicant has identified statutory and non-statutory sites or features of nature conservation; these are referenced in the **Statutory and Non-Statutory Nature Conservation Designations Plan [EN010140/APP/2.5]**

1.11.4. The Applicant will keep all application documents under review and will endeavor to provide updates (where it considers it necessary to do so) during the examination of the Application considering questions and comments received from the Examining Authority and Interested Parties.

I look forward to hearing from you in relation to the acceptance of this application. If I can be of any assistance please do not hesitate to contact me at the details provided below.

Yours sincerely

Kirsty Lodge
Principal Planner
Enso Energy

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