

The Planning Inspectorate is responsible during the Acceptance Stage for making a decision within 28-days upon receipt of Development Consent Order (DCO) application made by an Applicant. This decision is made on behalf of the Secretary of State (SoS) for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to determine whether or not the DCO Application meets the legal requirements under section 55 (s55) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) to accept the application. Under s55(4)(a) and (b) of the PA2008, the SoS must have regard to the consultation report and any Adequacy of Consultation Representation (AoCR) received from a local authority consultee. The AoCR is primarily focused around local authorities consulted during the Acceptance stage to inform the Planning Inspectorate whether an Applicant has met their obligations under s42, s47 and s48 of the PA2008 as well as the process outlined in their Statement of Community Consultation as you have identified in your email below.

On 19th December 2023, the [decision was made on behalf of the SoS](#) to accept the application to proceed to Examination, all application documents submitted by the Applicant has been published to the [East Yorkshire Solar Farm Project Page](#) on the National Infrastructure Planning, including [AoCRs](#) received during the Acceptance stage from authorities such as East Riding of Yorkshire Council. The Planning Inspectorate has also published the s55 checklist, alongside s51 advice regarding this DCO application, however as this project now proceeds into the next stage of the National Infrastructure process, known as Pre-Examination, this stage provides an opportunity for parties to submit a Relevant Representation (RR), which will be taken into consideration by the appointed Examining Authority (ExA), to inform his/her or the Panels “Initial Assessment of Principal Issues” prior to inviting Interested Parties (IPs) to the Preliminary Meeting. We would encourage you and other individuals interested in engaging in the Examination of this application by submitting a RR, as this submission will ensure that the individual gains an Interested Party Status.

We provide a series of Advice Notes (AN) and videos covering the DCO process, including the Examination stage which you can find on our website at [Advice notes | National Infrastructure Planning \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](#). The [Advice Note 8 series](#) “*Overview of the nationally significant infrastructure planning process for members of the public and others*” is probably the most helpful in setting out the overall process and setting out how parties can participate. We would encourage you to specifically review the following ANs:

1. [Advice Note 8.2: How to register to participate in an Examination.](#)
2. [Advice Note 8.3 – Influencing how an application is Examined: the Preliminary Meeting](#); and
3. [Advice Note 8.4: The Examination](#)

To date the Applicant, East Yorkshire Solar Farm Limited, has not announced the date on which it is intending to open the Relevant Representation period, although this is anticipated to take place shortly. Notification of the dates will have to be provided in newspapers and you can also [sign up to receive email updates](#) from the Planning Inspectorate in relation to this case, which would include the opening of the Relevant Representation period.

As a Host Local Authority, East Riding of Yorkshire will automatically gain interested party status under s102 (1) (c) of the PA2008 for this Examination. Participation from Interested Parties and Affected Parties is a key part of the Examination process, and we would encourage you to continuously engage in this process and contact the East Yorkshire Solar Farm case team, if you have any further queries regarding this application.