

North Lincolnshire Council response to the Examining Authority's fourth set of written questions for the Little Crow Solar Park Project

Question 4.1.1 – Reviewed energy NPS's

The Government published consultation versions for reviewed energy National Policy Statements (NPSs) on 6 September 2021. Please comment on what, if any, implications you consider the consultation versions of the reviewed energy NPSs have for the cases you have made about the Proposed Development to date...

Answer

Section 1.6 of draft NPS EN-1 makes it clear that any application accepted for examination before designation of the 2021 amendments, the 2011 suite of NPSs should have effect in accordance with the terms of those NPS and that the 2021 amendments will only have effect for those applications for development consent accepted for examination after the designation of the amendments. On this basis it is considered that the Council's case, and in particular its Local Impact Report is still relevant and does not require revision.

However it is noted that para 1.6.3 of draft NPS EN-1 does allow for emerging NPS's to be given weight as important and relevant considerations at the discretion of the relevant Secretary of State.

Given the development and expansion of different types of energy generating infrastructure since 2011 and the absence of any specific advice with regards to solar PV and/or storage proposals within the existing suit of NPS's it is considered that the Secretary of State may wish to give weight to the emerging draft NPS's, which fill this policy void, when making their decision. The following amendments to draft NPS's En-1 and EN-3 are considered to be of particular relevance to this development:

Draft NPS EN-1

Paragraphs 3.3.21 – 3.3.23 of draft NPS EN-1 outlines the role of wind and solar power generation in meeting the nation's energy objectives; whilst paragraphs 3.3.24 – 3.3.29 detail the role of storage in providing flexibility to the energy system.

Paragraph 3.3.44 confirms that Solar PV is one of the known technologies included within the scope of the NPS and paragraph 3.3.43 sets out an urgent need for all of the identified generating technologies mentioned in the NPS, including Solar PV.

Draft NPS EN-3

Paragraph 1.6.1 of draft NPS EN-3 confirms that Solar PV developments of more than 50MW generating capacity are covered by the NPS.

Paragraphs 2.47.1 – 2.54.10 of draft NPS EN-3 identify the impacts and other matters which are specific to Solar PV and set out the policy relating to their assessment. This should be considered in addition to Part 5 of draft NPS EN-1, which relates to the assessment of generic impacts and issues which are common across all energy generation technologies.