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Sunnica Energy Farm Case Team - National Infrastructure  
The Planning Inspectorate  
C/O Quadrant  
69 Buckingham Avenue  
Slough SL1 4PN  
Our Ref: CC08842

16 January 2026

Dear Sunnica Energy Farm Case Team,

**Subject: Objection to Response Deadline of 16 January 2026 – SI 2024/1154**

I am writing to raise a formal objection to the imposed response deadline of 16 January 2026 in relation to the ongoing Sunnica scheme. This deadline is neither reasonable nor proportionate given the persistent and significant changes that have characterised this project from the outset.

Throughout the entire process, the continual shifting of key information, requirements, and technical assumptions has created an unstable and inefficient decision-making environment. These repeated alterations are symptomatic of the poor quality and lack of preparedness underpinning the Sunnica proposal. A project of this scale should never have reached the application stage without fundamental elements—most notably grid access and a confirmed grid connection date—being firmly established.

It is now acknowledged that the grid connection is not expected until October 2030, meaning the scheme will not contribute to the Government's Net Zero by 2030 objectives. This undermines one of the central justifications for the project and raises serious questions about its strategic value.

In addition, the proposed location remains deeply inappropriate and unsafe. The site effectively functions as a test ground for the consequences of a lithium-ion battery energy storage system (Li-BESS) failure, positioned:

- above vital aquifers,
- adjacent to sensitive wildlife habitats, and
- directly over a high-pressure gas pipeline, where even small-scale ignition sources such as bonfires are prohibited.

It is therefore entirely inconsistent and alarming that a large-scale BESS installation—with well-documented fire and explosion risks—could be considered acceptable in such a setting.

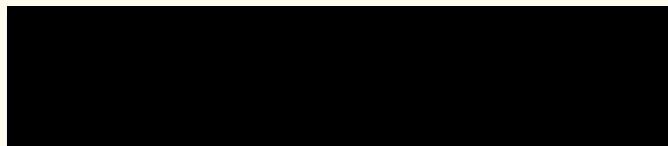
I am also aware that both East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) and West Suffolk Council (WSC) have formally written to Sunnica Ltd requesting submission of their Hazardous

Substances Consent (HSC) application prior to the discharge of any related requirements. This is a reasonable and necessary expectation given the nature of the risks involved.

I strongly encourage Sunnica Ltd to provide their HSC application to the Councils as a matter of urgency, ensuring that local authorities and statutory bodies have the information required to assess the safety and regulatory compliance of the scheme.

Given the cumulative issues—procedural instability, inadequate preparation, unresolved safety concerns, and the absence of a timely grid connection—it is wholly inappropriate to expect stakeholders to respond meaningfully under the current deadline. A revised timetable is essential to ensure proper scrutiny and responsible decision-making.

Yours sincerely,



Charlotte Cane MP  
Member of Parliament for Ely and East Cambridgeshire