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secretary.state@communities.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@parliament.uk
Cc: [Stonestreet Green Solar Project](#); [Bell, Alison](#); [REDACTED]@parliament.uk; [Cllr Linda Harman](#); [Jonathan Tennant](#); [Simon Lunn](#); [Jerry Newson](#)
Subject: Stone Street Green Solar DCO Application and East Stour Solar Planning Appeal, Aldington, Kent
Date: 27 January 2025 09:45:42

To the Rt Hon Angela Rayner and the Rt Hon Ed Milliband,

Dear Ms Rayner and Mr Milliband,

We the undersigned write in the context of the following DCO application and planning appeal:

DCO application – Generation station - Stonestreet Green Solar – PINS project ref: EN010135

Planning appeal – East Stour Solar Farm – PINS reference: APP/E2205/W/24/3352427

We write in the context of what might generally be described as a ‘call-in’ request. But considering that both the DCO application and the planning appeal are currently in the hands of The Planning Inspectorate, we question the relevance of this moniker. Rather, given the common domicile of both schemes, our request is for a direction that both application and appeal are considered in the context of common determination.

Grounds for common determination

- EPL 001 Limited’s Stonestreet Green Solar DCO application is for a 165MW solar generation facility, battery energy storage units and related infrastructure to the north and west of Aldington village, on land adjacent to the EDF East Stour scheme, to be connected to the National Grid via the Sellindge Converter Station in Church Lane, Aldington.

- EDF’s planning appeal concerns a 49.9MW solar generation facility and related infrastructure to the north-east of Aldington village, on land adjacent to the Stonestreet Green Solar project, also for connection to the National Grid via the Sellindge Converter Station in Aldington.

We believe that the DCO application and the Planning Appeal will raise the same or similar issues both for and against. As a result, we believe that the DCO application and the planning appeal should at the very least be considered by the same Planning Inspector or Examining Authority, at the same or concurrent hearings, whilst taking account of the following.

The specific issues

1. The DCO application and the planning appeal would, if constructed, create a significant and intrusive cumulative impact on the small Aldington village.
2. If constructed, the DCO application and the Planning Appeal, together with the existing Partridge Farm solar generating facility, the Sellindge Converter Station, a recently approved EDF battery energy storage system facility and an under construction synchronous condenser and flywheel project by Welsh Power, would form a continuous development of generating stations and related facilities on adjacent land around Aldington village.
3. If constructed, both the DCO application and the planning appeal would be constructed on arable land used for growing food.
4. The DCO application and the planning appeal, which are proposed to be constructed on land adjacent to each other, are being pursued through different legal processes, but with the same body in the form of the Planning Inspectorate making the determinations without reference to the other scheme.
5. The main issues concerning both the DCO application and the planning appeal will be the same or similar and consequently there is considerable merit and logic in both the DCO application and the planning appeal being heard and determined on a consistent, common basis by the same Planning Inspector or Examining Authority.

In this context consider, for example, that the outcome of mitigation in the form of treelines could be determined to a different height/density, either side of a hedgerow. Or that a Skylark's habitat might be protected on one side of the hedge, but not the other.

6. Currently, the DCO application and the planning appeal make no reference to the combined and or cumulative environmental impacts of both schemes.
7. There is considerable support for integrated battery energy storage systems to be created in combination with solar generation arrays, not only in terms of energy generated and then stored, but also in the context of a balancing function in support of the National Grid. Given the common location of both the DCO application and the planning appeal in relation to the functionality of the Grid, why is it considered appropriate for one scheme to have battery energy storage facilities and not the other?

8. Given current timelines, there exists the potential for both the DCO application and the planning appeal to be constructed simultaneously, requiring that the community's interests would be best served by construction schedules and traffic plans being determined according to guidelines provided by the Planning Inspector or Examining Authority.

9. Given the current circumstances around the National Grid's ability to accommodate new energy generation sources, would it not be appropriate that the construction of both the DCO application and the planning appeal, if approved, are scheduled to be constructed according to the confirmed availability of grid capacity by the National Grid.

Finally...

In making this request, we acknowledge that a 'call-in' request was made by Mr John King on 4th January 2023 and was declined. Such request had no formal support from the incumbent MP at the time, nor local support from either the community or the local and borough councils. In fact, it could be described as a 'lone, rogue initiative', the historic presence of which we request to be struck off.

Regardless of the outcome of the request at the end of the previous paragraph, we believe that significant material changes have occurred since January 2023, not least of all the current existence of the approved DCO application.

In closing, we wish to state that this request does not suggest or imply any criticism of either the currently elected Examining Authority or Planning Inspector.

With best regards,

DEREK BURLES

[REDACTED]

Supported by:

Jeremy Metcalfe,

[REDACTED]

Shirley Boards,

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Linda Arthur,

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Ian Howard,

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Peter Canney, [REDACTED]

Karen Day, [REDACTED]

Sir Christopher Edwards, [REDACTED]

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Colin & Juliet Skinner, [REDACTED]

Charles & Dorothy Rodgers, [REDACTED]

Gay Welham, [REDACTED]

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Elaine & Ian Rose, [REDACTED]

Alison Lunn, [REDACTED]

ENDS