



RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Limited

FAO Byers Gill Solar
National Infrastructure Planning
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By email only: byersgillsolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

4 July 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

Development Consent for the Byers Gill Solar scheme: EN010139

Applicants response to Secretary of State Request for Information (Deadline 6 July 2025)

1.1 Purpose of this letter

- 1.1.1 The purpose of this letter is to provide the responses of RWE (the Applicant) to the Secretary of State's (SoS) consultation letter requesting for further information from the Applicant and all interested parties by 23:59 on 6 July 2025.
- 1.1.2 Where appropriate, reference is made to any supporting information which has previously been provided in support of the application.

1.2 Update on Northern Gas Networks Protective Provisions

- 1.2.1 The SoS requested the Applicant provide an update on whether agreement has been reached with Northern Gas Networks ("NGN") in respect of the form of the protective provisions between the Applicant and NGN.
- 1.2.2 Despite the Applicant's best efforts, agreement has not yet been reached on the form of protective provisions to be included for the protection of NGN apparatus.
- 1.2.3 Negotiations are ongoing to agree an Asset Protection Agreement and the parties exchanged comments on a near final-form on Monday 30 June which is expected to complete shortly.

- 1.2.4 In any event, the Applicant notes that NGN did not register as an interested party or otherwise participate in examination. NGN has not identified any specific reasons why a serious detriment, within the meaning of the Planning Act 2008, would be suffered in the absence of specific protective provisions being included in the DCO.
- 1.2.5 The Applicant considers that the protective provisions included in Part 8 of Schedule 11 of the draft DCO at Deadline 9 (REP9-006) are comprehensive, based on previous examples, and adequate to ensure that the Proposed Development will not cause any serious detriment to the undertaking of NGN, for the reasons set out in Appendix 2 of the Deadline 8 SU Position Statement (REP8-023) .

1.3 Applicant's comments on the Interested Parties' response to the Secretary of State's previous consultation letter dated 23 May 2025

- 1.3.1 The Applicant is grateful to the Interested Parties for their responses to the Secretary of State's previous consultation letter dated 23 May 2025.
- 1.3.2 The Applicant does not have any specific further comment on these responses.
- 1.3.3 The Applicant welcomes the response of the County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS) which has now also been published, and notes that this response accords with the Applicant's own responses to the Secretary of State Request for Information dated 3 June 2025. The Applicant looks forward to continuing engagement with CDDFRS in the future.

1.4 Conclusion

- 1.4.1 The Applicant is grateful to the SoS for the opportunity to provide an update on progress of negotiations with NGN.
- 1.4.2 The Applicant looks forward to being notified of the SoS decision on or before 23 July 2025, which in the event of a positive decision, the Applicant hopes to refer to in its Clean Power 2030 evidence submissions on or before the 28 July.

Your sincerely,



Michael Baker

DCO Project Manager, Byers Gill Solar

Email: 

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