

OPEN FLOOR HEARING 10 MARCH 2025

SUBMISSION BY: SHEILA RADFORD (member of H.A.L.T and local resident.)

1. SOURCING OF RAW MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

- i. If the main purpose of rushing to achieve net zero is to reduce carbon emissions, shouldn't the Applicant first be required to carry out an assessment of the carbon footprint created in their sourcing of; raw materials, production, transport, construction and the ultimate disposal of the solar panels and BESS's and compare that against the actual carbon emissions saved in such energy production?
- ii. Perhaps these figures can then be properly evaluated when approval decisions are being made? What pride can our country have in this dubious net zero achievement when we have simply displaced our carbon footprint to China* and India?
- iii. The GB Energy Bill is currently in its Report stage and on the 11 February 2024, the Lords voted in favour of an amendment to ensure that "financial assistance cannot be provided if there is credible evidence of modern slavery in the energy supply chain of any company designated Great British Energy". I understand that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

As it is likely this Bill will become law before this project reaches approval stage, how will this amendment affect the Applicants decision in sourcing an equipment supplier, as the government has stressed that the race to net zero must NOT be in conflict with their modern slavery commitments?

2. WASTE AND RECYCLING OF SOLAR PANELS

- i. In the recently submitted document ENO10140-000813 "Info to Inform a Habitats Reg. Assessment" it states:
 - a. "all equipment will be removed and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time".
 - b. How can this bland, generalised statement provide us with any acceptable assurances of its safe, ethical disposal?
 - c. Surely a clear exit strategy detailing how such large amounts of hazardous waste is to be disposed of, should also be a critical part of the approval process?
- ii. Solar panels can be recycled through processes involving shredding, crushing, and milling to recover glass, aluminium, and copper. However, it's difficult and expensive to recycle such panels in the United Kingdom, so can the Applicant specifically state how it intends to dispose of damaged and obsolete panels or is their intention to bury them in landfills, creating a problem for future generations?

3. BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY

We know the government's objective is 'providing clean renewable energy for the greater good of this country' and as yet the unproven elements of 'improvements to biodiversity and the land during the 40yr site presence'; but this is to optimistically assume the absence of fires, storm damage and vandalism.

Currently all we can envisage, with a sense of dread, from day one of construction, are;

increased in energy costs, pollution, traffic congestion, loss of vista, reduction of our property's value, displacement/ destruction of wildlife, fire risk, floods, lockdowns and possible evacuations - all conspiring to adversely impact the emotional, mental, physical & financial health of our local people...

How will our communities benefit for their silent acquiescence? – I suggest NET ZERO!

Perhaps the Applicant can advise us of any community or philanthropic elements in their immense expenditure to secure project approval or is that financial benefit simply to be harvested by overseas investors at some future stage? This is the question all our village residents are currently asking!

4) CLARIFICATION REQUESTED

- = What happens where there is no sun, just thick cloud or snow– as is often the case in North Yorkshire?
- = How long can the batteries hold energy in storage?
- = What happens if the energy can't be sent to the grid, particularly in summer if there is insufficient capacity to receive it? This is a likely scenario, given the plethora of farms already planned for this area.
- = Are we in a similar situation as with the wind turbines, where many operators are actually being paid to switch them off because there is no spare storage capacity at the grid?

I thank you for the opportunity to present my thoughts and those of many of our local residents, but before closing, may I leave you with a particularly relevant thought for the day?

“No intelligent species would ever destroy its own environment”.

Thank you.