

## RESPONSE TO THE EXAMINING AUTHORITYS QUESTIONS

### SECTION 3 Site Selection and Alternatives

#### Q3 0.1 With regard to Alternative Site Assessment [APP-227]

- Guidance on the siting of solar farms and dwellings in England

I appreciate that the question related to solar farms but with every solar farm there is usually the necessity of a BESS site.

The only reference to safe distances of BESS's from dwellings is from the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) guidance which recommends 25 metres between a BESS and any 'occupied buildings.

However this is purely to ensure that radiant heat does not cause a hazard to residents.

As Dr John Fannon has stated in [\\*https://www.netzerowatch.com/all-news/on-battery-safety-regulation](https://www.netzerowatch.com/all-news/on-battery-safety-regulation) no account has been taken of the dangers to local residents of smoke.

As described in his paper below, toxic plumes have been found to spread many kilometres e.g. During the BESS fire at Moorabool, Victoria Australia in 2021, the fire authority advised a lockdown (shelter in place) across an area of 30 square kilometres.

The recent fire at Moss Landing resulted in considerable concern among local residents, many at considerable distances from the source of the fire.

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/656f411497ae14084ad8d03a/t/66fd2383b56dbc6906390297/1727865736681/Fannon-Batteries.pdf>

- Guidance on the siting of solar farms more generally in relation to dwellings

According to the World Health Organization, there is no significant research that proves living near a solar farm is harmful due to EMF exposure.

(However, there are differing views. Solar power plants produce electromagnetic radiation that can affect the health of nearby residents. These rays are not coming from the solar panels themselves, but from industrial equipment used for the farms. Agencies, like the European Commission Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identifiable Health Risks, have taken a more cautious stance, saying that it's possible, but far from conclusive, that extremely low-frequency magnetic fields could be carcinogenic, or have the potential to cause cancer, according to a 2015 report).

Still, in general, solar farms are required to be built at least 3 km (1.86 miles) from residential areas (26 Jul 2023) and in its submission (ID: 28466), the WHO recommends that Solar Farms should be 2 miles from residential properties.

*It is important to note that the WHO has yet to assess the impact of noise from solar farms.*

- Is there any research available or emerging research on the impact of living near a solar farm?

Evidence is starting to emerge re the longer term impact of living close to solar farms due to the noise levels.

A podcast Dr Katherine Albrecht on the 30.01.25 from LA, US

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/1117445326655289/posts/1180212123711942/?wtsid=rdr\\_0QEd2JAA74OcWuO3g&\\_rdr](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1117445326655289/posts/1180212123711942/?wtsid=rdr_0QEd2JAA74OcWuO3g&_rdr)

Dr Albrecht investigated problems arising from an industrial size solar farm that was built opposite a residential area in Monson, Massachusetts in 2016.

Construction was completed in 2018 and noise reported since installation, include ear splitting screeches when invertors are charged and the persistent hum from invertors 24/7. Over the years such noises have

caused a number of health complaints amongst local residents including [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]. Residents describe the noise as “horrific” and also report that they are unable to open their windows in the summer months.