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Grid Connection Statement

April 2025



Helios Renewable Energy Project

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Prepared on behalf of Enso Green Holdings D Limited

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1. Introduction

- 1.1.1. This Grid Connection Statement has been prepared on behalf of Enso Green Holdings D Ltd (the 'Applicant') as part of an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the Helios Renewable Energy Project (the 'Proposed Development').
- 1.1.2. The Proposed Development comprises the installation of ground mounted solar arrays, battery energy storage system and associated development comprising grid connection infrastructure and other infrastructure integral to the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of the development for the delivery of over 50 megawatts (MW) of electricity.
- 1.1.3. This Statement has been prepared in accordance with Section 37(3) of the Planning Act 2008 ('PA 2008') and Regulations 5(2)(p) and 6(1)(a)(i) of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the 'APFP Regulations'), which require an applicant for a DCO in respect of an onshore generating station to provide a statement of who will be responsible for designing and building the connection to the electricity grid.
- 1.1.4. The development will supply electricity to the System Operator (National Electricity System Operator (NESO)) via the infrastructure owned by the Transmission Owner (National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)).
- 1.1.5. The Proposed Development will connect into the NGET Drax 132kV Substation ("Grid Connection").
- 1.1.6. The Proposed Development will connect into the 132kV compound within the NGET Drax 132kV Substation, using 132 kilovolt (kV) underground cables. A new generator bay will be provided within the existing 132kV compound to facilitate the grid connection of the Proposed Development.
- 1.1.7. The location of infrastructure relevant to the draft DCO are shown in the Works Plans. The Work Nos. relevant to the NGET grid connection site (Drax 132kV Substation) and the 132kV connection route are as follows:
 - Work No. 3 – on-site substation;
 - Work No. 4 – underground 33kV cabling to connect the solar PV panel areas and battery energy storage system to the on-site substation, and underground 132kV cabling to connect the on-site substation to the NGET Drax 132kV

Substation;

- Work No. 4A – additional underground 33kV cabling to connect the solar PV panel areas and battery energy storage system to the on-site substation;
- Work No. 5 – underground 132kV cabling to connect the on-site substation to the NGET Drax 132kV Substation;
- Work No. 6 – electrical substation infrastructure within the NGET Drax 132kV Substation; and
- Work No. 8A – underground 132kV cabling to connect the on-site substation to the NGET Drax 132kV Substation, including crossing of the railway by trenchless installation techniques.

1.1.8. The above Work Nos. will form the infrastructure that is used to transport the electricity from Work No. 1 (the solar PV panel arrays), Work No. 2 (the BESS), and Work No. 3 (the 132kV Onsite Substation), to the National Electricity Grid via the NGET Drax 132kV Substation (Work No. 6).

1.1.9. The Applicant will be responsible for designing and building, as part of the Proposed Development, the connection from the generating station to NGET Drax 132kV Substation. NESO and NGET will be responsible for enabling and reinforcement works to facilitate the Proposed Development's connection.

1.1.10. The construction, operation and decommissioning of all the elements of the grid connection have been assessed as part of the Environmental Statement and will be undertaken in accordance with the **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) [EN010140/APP/6.3.5.1]**.

2. Connection Agreement

- 2.1.1. The Applicant entered into a Bilateral Connection Agreement with National Grid Energy System Operator (NGESO) on 2 December 2020, reference A/NGET/ENSO/DRAX/20/-EN(0). On 1 October 2024, the Electricity System Operator (ESO) separated from National Grid plc (NG) and was acquired by Government which established the National Energy System Operator (NESO).
- 2.1.2. The Energy Act 2023 (Schedule 9) sets out the mechanism of how 100% of the share capital of NGESO transfers over to NESO under a transfer scheme. In practice, NGESO has become NESO.
- 2.1.3. The agreement allows for a 190 MW connection. NESO have allocated the Applicant a new generator bay within the NGET Drax 132kV Substation compound.

2.2. Responsibilities of NESO and NGET

- 2.2.1. NGET (National Grid Electricity Transmission) and NESO (National Energy System Operator) work together in the electricity transmission system, with NESO contracting with NGET to build connection infrastructure and related works, while NESO directly manages customer contracts and applications.
- 2.2.2. Under the Bilateral Connection Agreement, both NESO and NGET are responsible for designing, gaining consent and building the enabling and reinforcement works in accordance with the Security and Quality of Supply Standard (SQSS) which sets out the criteria and methodology for planning and operating the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS). The enabling reinforcement works (attributable) are:
- Extend busbars at Drax 132kV Substation to accommodate the new generator bay connection; and
 - Carry out a civil infrastructure survey to evaluate the bay infrastructure ratings of the bus coupler and bus section circuit breakers (120 and 130) at Drax 132kV Substation.

2.3. Responsibilities of the Applicant

- 2.3.1. Under the Bilateral Connection Agreement, the Applicant and its appointed contractors will be responsible for designing, gaining consent and building and decommissioning the following in relation to the grid connection:

- Construction of the Helios Renewable Energy Project (HREP) On Site 132kV substation and associated on site cabling works;
- Install cabling between the HREP On Site 132kV substation and the new generator bay within NGET Drax 132kV Substation;
- Populate a new generator bay within the NGET Drax 132kV Substation. To include cable sealing ends, switchgear and associated structures; and
- Install control and protection, monitoring, communication and metering systems in a new enclosure within the NGET Drax 132kV Substation.

3. Acquisition of Land and Rights

- 3.1.1. The Applicant is seeking to negotiate an option for easement with landowners for the grid connection (Work Nos. 5 and 8A). The new generator bay at Drax 132kV Substation (Work No. 6) is within land owned by NGET.
- 3.1.2. The Applicant is negotiating option agreements for a leasehold interest with the landowners to allow for the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning of the ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) arrays combined with BESS.
- 3.1.3. The Applicant will be seeking rights to deliver the Proposed Development through compulsory acquisition powers should voluntary agreement not be forthcoming.

4. Consent for the Grid Connection Works

- 4.1.1. The grid connection and the NGET Drax 132kV Substation works (Work No. 6) form part of the DCO application for the Proposed Development. As such, it is considered that if the DCO is granted, development consent for the grid connection and works within the NGET Drax 132kV Substation (as set out at section 1.7 of this Statement) will have been secured.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1.1. The Applicant is required to submit a statement pursuant to Section 37(3) of the PA 2008 and Regulations 5(2)(p) and 6(1)(a)(i) of the APFP Regulations, stating who will be responsible for designing and building the connection to the electricity grid.

5.1.2. It is considered that this Statement provides confirmation to the Secretary of State of the requirement above, namely:

- The Applicant has received a grid connection offer from NESO to connect the Proposed Development to the National Electricity Grid and that offer has been accepted;
- A connection to the NGET 132kV Substation will be provided via a 132kV underground cable(s) from the 132kV Onsite Substation (Work No. 3), to be constructed as part of the Proposed Development;
- The Applicant will be responsible for designing and building the 132kV Onsite Substation (Work No. 3) and the grid connection route (Work Nos. 4A, 5 and 8A).
- The Applicant will be responsible for designing and constructing equipment to populate the new generator bay within the NGET Drax 132kV Substation (Work No. 6).
- The Applicant has, or will have, the ability to procure the necessary land and rights in order to install the grid connection and generator bay at NGET Drax 132kV Substation to accommodate the grid connection; and
- As stipulated in the draft DCO the grid connection forms part of the proposed development for which development consent is being sought.