Project – EN010141 – East Park Solar Farm.

Written follow up to Preliminary Examination Meeting held on the afternoon of March 17th in Bedford.

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Interested Party Reference No: [redacted]

Areas of Concern.
Timescale - Project on the stocks for late 2023. Reached Preliminary Examination after more than 2years. Circumstances have changed within that time.
Grossly Inefficient - Let us recap. The East Park Solar Farm is inefficient and will struggle to achieve 14% efficiency. Take away the loss of power in distribution (48%) and the scenario is even worse. It will negate the agricultural/food contribution from 1900 acres of good farmland.
Target Level Already Exceeded - In April 2025, the Government target of 43GW Solar by 2030 had already been exceeded. 65MW already in the development pipeline. In other words 50% over target. This is even higher now. What has happened to the strategy? Professor of Ecology from Oxford Univ. likened the planning strategy to "The Wild West". It is stated that NESO (National Energy Systems Operator) must get a grip of chaotic onshore development of solar power based renewable energy. This opinion is echoed by the CPRE (Council for the Preservation of Rural England.) There appears to be no consideration of farmland quality.
Inappropriate Pricing Procedure – Wind and solar based power generation should be the cheapest form of energy generation. However the formulae used for payment is strongly in favour of renewable providers particularly when generation is disconnected because of grid overload. This can result frequently because of unpredictable nature of wind and solar generated energy. As a result of this small users pay 62% more than European Median price and large users 131% more. British industrial users pay more that 4x that of American industrial users .
Knock-On effect to Home Based Industries – This is why we have exported much of our manufacturing and carbon emissions. Steel manufacture is virtually non-existent. Fertiliser manufacture has gone. 40% of cement used is imported. Car manufacture is back to the level of the 1950's. These are only examples not an exhaustive list.

Infrastructure for Electric Vehicles – The demand for EV's has never met the target level. The associated penalties for not meeting the annually increasing level of EV sales is causing concern. Some manufacturers are cancelling plans for an "EV only" policy. All are seeing a resistance to EV's. The government is reviewing the situation and it is anticipated that target capacities and associated dates will be relaxed. Europe has already extended the period for manufacture of vehicles based on the internal combustion engine. This reduces the electrical energy demand and hence the overall Grid required capacity.

Integration Within National Grid – What about The National Grid for Electricity and the connection of Solar Farms? Solar Farms are waiting for details of connection to the grid. Some have been quoted dates 10 years from now for connection. There is a shortage of skilled engineers to extend the grid. Planning applications for new pylons take ages to process because of public resistance. Planning has gone badly wrong. The Energy Secretary's target for a date of 2030 is totally impossible. Are we looking at another HS2 i.e. massive delays and substantial increase in cost?

Battery Backup - East Park includes a 100MW lithium battery as part of the scheme. This is not a dedicated battery, but is shared on the grid. The lithium battery presents safety problems, and it would contribute very little to the overall power network.

Our Carbon Footprint - What about reducing the carbon footprint? We only cause 1% of the global problem. What about COP30 in Brazil in the Autumn of 2025? It was far from being a success. America is still fracking and drilling. Saudi and Qatar are still drilling. Russia is still issuing new Gas and Oil Licences. China is still burning coal. Britain cancelled all new licences in the North Sea. After a U-turn the government are allowing some extension to existing licences. They have seen the error of their ways.

We are sitting on £165billion of Gas and Oil reserves in The North Sea basin. The Tony Blair think tank (Institute for Global Change) is of the opinion that Britain needs an Energy Strategy Reset. Their view is that energy should be treated as a core economic infrastructure not a subset of climate policy.

Artificial Intelligence – AI is not going away. It's here to stay. It is based on Data Centres and Super Computers (High tech Graphic Power Computers). Total national power requirement will increase by 30% to service these sites and the extra power must be highly reliable – not a function of the weather, time of day or the current season. This is a similar requirement to, for

example, computers in the medical sector and in applications in national security. The list is endless. Solar farms are totally unsuitable as a source of energy for these applications. Operators of Data Centres will run their own stand-alone power supply e.g. their own Small Modular Nuclear Reactors.

What should we be doing?

* Limiting solar farms to poor land, brownfield sites, urban sites (including non-agricultural). Encouraging people to install solar panels on domestic and commercial roofs airfields etc.

*Drilling in The North Sea to release the vast and valuable energy resources.

*Order Roll-Royce SMR's. Small Modular Reactors. Built in factories and assembled on site. Already being sold and built abroad. First 2/3 reactors have been ordered for Wylfa in Anglesey. Each reactor produces 470MW of electricity continuously with a high degree of reliability approaching 100%. (East Park 16MW on a good day – not guaranteed.) The site required is less than 15 acres against 1900acres for East Park.

*Accept that net-zero is a global problem and that we cannot live in an isolated Britain with no effect from outside "our bubble".

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