Submission ID: SBD028B8E

I would like to request that the ExA holds an Issue Specific Hearing in relation to the Applicant's decommissioning plans (or rather lack thereof) given how fundamental the decommissioning will be to this "temporary" scheme.
At the ISH3 the Applicant confirmed they "do not know" what the decommissioning will cost. How then can they possibly say they are confident that they will be able to raise funds for it? How can they present this as a viable application when they cannot quantify, and have made no provision for, the substantial costs of full remediation of all above and below ground structures?
My concern, which I believe is widely shared with local residents, is that the scheme will be built and operated, and its profits extracted, and then come the end of the scheme's life the liabilities for remediation will rest with an emptied corporate shell incapable of meeting those liabilities. To avoid this I believe:
The full costs of complete remediation should be calculated now
Funds to meet those costs should be raised now and ringfenced, with their adequacy audited on a regular basis over the life of the scheme
We want to avoid the site becoming a stranded asset should the company mismanage its finances and fail to remediate properly, or going into administration (like Vast Renewables has done recently), leaving an abandoned site which the land owners cannot afford to clear up and which the taxpayer should not have to.
Any responsible developer should not just recognise its responsibility to remediate, but be able to quantify the associated costs, and make more than adequate provision to meet them.
EPE has done NONE of this, leaving local residents in despair that the Applicant will happily take the profits of its scheme but is not willing to meet the liabilities that will be left behind.
Given the centrality of decommissioning to this scheme, I believe an Issue Specific Hearing is an urgent requirement.