



Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning and Innovation
Department of Energy Security and Net Zero
3-8 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2AW

13 July 2026

Dear Mr. Wheadon,

BYG submission re BWSF article published in Energy Voice 9 July (ref DESNZ EN010147 RFI).

Our attention has been drawn to the attached article that appeared in *Energy Voice* on 9 July 2026, [Exclusive: Botley West solar farm rejects Russian funding claim](#) (see our Appendix 1).

1. In this article, the spokesman for the Botley West project, Mark Owen-Lloyd, is reported as having made the following statement:

'Botley West was planned to be the UK's largest solar farm, at 840 MW. Following talks on visual impact, it will resubmit plans to scale the project to 770 MW to the energy secretary this month...'

During the Examination of BWSF by PINS earlier this year the Applicant failed to respond to the many submissions - most notably from the Oxford Host Authorities - arguing that the project was far too large to be considered acceptable for such a sensitive site. It is therefore clearly unacceptable for the Applicant now to slip in a late submission, presumably in the hope that it would escape comment by Interested Parties.

The SoS should either refuse to accept it, or reject the current Application and ask for a new application to be submitted. Opening such a late submission for comment would be unacceptable since it would not go through the usual examination process.

2. During the Examination we made various submissions regarding the funding for Botley West. In bringing this article to your attention we are also obliged to point out the many, wholly inaccurate, statements apparently made to *Energy Voice* (*note: it is possible that some may have been mis-reported*).

These statements - with our comments - are as follows:

2.1 *██████████ is a German citizen who lives in Cyprus and has a 50% share in the company, alongside business partner ██████████*

In fact, ██████████ a Russian national who also has a Cypriot passport [RR0092 para 2, and REP1-020, page 259.]

2.2 *'Botley West's development will be funded in the initial stages by PVPD.'*

In fact, the development is being funded by Cransseta Investment Ltd - a Cypriot company wholly owned by ██████████ - and passed through PVDP Germany, also wholly owned by ██████████.

This was confirmed by the Applicant [REP2-025 Q1.5.26] where the following statement was made: *"Photovolt Development Partners GmbH is a German engineering company providing inter-company engineering support to SolarFive. Also, the company has on-lent funds received from its parent company Cransseta Investment Ltd to Solar Five. The source of such on-lent funds are not the equity base of Photovolt Development Partners GmbH".*

2.3 *'The development costs of Botley West have been funded through legitimate commercial sources, including proceeds generated from Photovolt's successful renewable energy business.'*

As indicated above, the funds are coming from Cransseta. The ExA were not provided with any financial information in respect of this company. We managed to find the company's details on the Cypriot registry to discover that no accounts have been filed since 2014. The last accounts showed a significant deficit. [REP6-071.]

2.4 *'The money comes from Photovolt Development Partners, using money from solar farms from the last 20 years,' ██████████ said, citing that the company's bank is based in Berlin.'*

This statement is misleading; as already shown, the funds are coming from Cyprus.

2.5 *'This asset will be British owned.'*

No evidence was provided to the ExA to support such a statement

2.6 *██████████ a Russian citizen, had before his death held shares in gold mining company Amazarkan. He was accused of extortion when it became defunct. The case was deferred by a New York court, because it was out of jurisdiction, to a court in Russia."*

"There it was summarily dismissed on the basis that the evidence was forged," ██████████ said.

"Some of the others used a forged document to imply ██████████ was involved in stealing the money," he told Energy Voice. "The case was dismissed in New York as

having no merit and then continued in Russia and then dismissed because the evidence was found to be forged.”

In a statement shared with Energy Voice, the company stated that the case was dismissed on the basis of unreliable evidence. The statement, from [REDACTED] on behalf of the developer, called a report by Private Eye “misleading”.

All these statements are simply inaccurate at best. The New York court was never requested to consider the case. As we confirmed [RR0092, paras 2.4 to 2.6] the New York court was requested by Uralsib, the Russian bank seeking to recover funds from [REDACTED] to grant *discovery* so that missing funds could be traced. That application to the court was successful and a copy of that judgement approving discovery is attached (Appendix 2).

The statement that the Russian court dismissed the case because the “*evidence was found to be forged*” is also misleading. The case was simply dismissed because Uralsib had failed to meet the deadline for filing the claim and then forged a postal record to try to overcome that. The case itself and related evidence was never heard by the Russian court [RR0092 para 2.7.].

2.7 [REDACTED] *said the case has no bearing on the planning process as Lezhen is not funding the project and the case was thrown out.*`

This is another misleading statement since, as noted above, Lezhen was confirmed as the source of funding.

2.8 `He said “we might raise the money from an infrastructure fund but we’re much more likely to allow an infrastructure fund ... to build it themselves. It’s an enormous civil engineering project.”`

As we pointed out [RR0092, and throughout the examination] the Applicant has no track record of taking any large solar development through to construction. The Applicant’s clear lack of adequate experience should be a matter of great concern to the SoS, particularly given the fact that their largest project in Japan, Ukujima, was sold on - with significant inherent problems that caused considerable construction delays [RR0092, 3.5.1].

3. We repeat our view that the submission so late in an already extended decision-making process of what is effectively a new project would be seriously prejudicial for Interested Parties such as us.

We shall wait with interest to see if such a submission is accepted by the SoS.

Yours faithfully,

Giles Lewis

Chair Begbroke & Yarnton Green belt Campaign.

Appendix 1

Exclusive: 'Fantasy' that Russian money will fund Botley West, rebuts solar developer

Photovolt is downsizing the project to address its visual impact.

July 9th 2026, 12:29 pm

██████████

Energy Voice London Correspondent

The developer behind the UK's planned 770 MW Botley West solar farm has rebutted claims that the delayed project will be funded by Russian money laundering as "fantasy".

██████████ the joint business partner in German solar project developer Photovolt Development Partners (PVPD), is the victim of "misleading" claims, according to the developer.

██████████n is a German citizen who lives in Cyprus and has a 50% share in the company, alongside business partner Peter Gerstmann.

She left Russia with her husband, ██████████ 20 years ago, project director ██████████ told Energy Voice.

Her deceased spouse, ██████████ held shares in a gold mining company. This became a source of controversy when the listed vehicle became insolvent.

Claims made about criminal activity around the failure of the gold mine and its impact on the UK project were brought up briefly in a public examination for the delayed solar farm. The vast 2,000 acre project on the Blenheim Castle Estate has faced opposition.

Botley West solar farm to be 'British owned'

PVPD has insisted the development costs of the Botley West solar farm have been "funded through legitimate commercial sources".

Botley West's development will be funded in the initial stages by PVPD. It seeks to bring on board infrastructure funding to meet the approximately [£800-900 million cost of development at Blenheim Palace](#), according to ██████████

"The development costs of Botley West have been funded through legitimate commercial sources, including proceeds generated from Photovolt's successful renewable energy business," according to a statement.

"The money comes from Photovolt Development Partners, using money from solar farms from the last 20 years," ██████████ said, citing that the company's bank is based in Berlin.

"It's simply untrue," he said of the claims that the project will benefit from sanctioned Russian money. "It's a fantasy.

"This asset will be British owned."

PVPD further said it has prepared a lawyer's opinion and that [REDACTED] has not faced sanctions.

[REDACTED], a Russian citizen, had before his death held shares in gold mining company Amazarkan. He was accused of extortion when it became defunct. The case was deferred by a New York court, because it was out of jurisdiction, to a court in Russia.

There it was summarily dismissed on the basis that the evidence was forged, Owen-Lloyd said.

Project director [REDACTED], who is based in the UK, said these claims were brought up briefly in a public examination for the delayed solar farm. They were thrown out this summer and will not be included in the examiner's report for the project. This is because they are not relevant to the planning of the project, he said.

PVPD shareholder's husband 'falsely' accused of extortion

A court document dated 31 October, 2023, seen by Energy Voice, offered a translation of the legal letter summarising a complicated legal saga in a Russian court. As a result, shareholders are now recouping allegedly stolen money from the gold mining company's bank, according to [REDACTED]

"Some of the others used a forged document to imply [REDACTED] was involved in stealing the money," he told Energy Voice. "The case was dismissed in New York as having no merit and then continued in Russia and then dismissed because the evidence was found to be forged."

"Our shareholder's husband lost a significant amount of money," he added.

In a statement shared with Energy Voice, the company stated that the case was dismissed on the basis of unreliable evidence. The statement, from [REDACTED] on behalf of the developer, called a report by Private Eye "misleading".

The statement said that the "recent procedural order" makes "no findings whatsoever against Julia [REDACTED] or the Glukhov estate", neither of whom are party to a claim.

The project was due to receive a final statutory decision from energy secretary Ed Miliband in May. That has been [delayed until 9 September](#), according to Owen-Lloyd.

"All projects are subject to a rigorous planning process and the views of the local community must be taken into account," said a Department for Energy Security and Net Zero spokesperson.

Court case has 'no relevance' to the project planning process

[REDACTED] said the case has no bearing on the planning process as Lezhen is not funding the project and the case was thrown out.

"As part of our application we have to state where our money is coming from," Owen-Lloyd told Energy Voice. "That went into the DCO (development consent order) application."

He said "we might raise the money from an infrastructure fund but we're much more likely to allow an infrastructure fund ... to build it themselves. It's an enormous civil engineering project."

He claimed that opposition group [Stop Botley West](#) had publicised the court case but have since dropped it because it has no basis or relevance to the project planning process.

The deadline for the developer's submission to the energy secretary is 16 July, following a consultation on the project's visual impact.

"It's not a planning matter," ██████████ said of the case. "Financing is not part of that. The only parts you have to prove you have finance is if you have to exercise a compulsory purchase. Then you have to demonstrate access to credit. We have agreement to lease the land."

At a recent hearing, the question of Russian investment was raised by a member of the public, alongside objections around sub-letting of the land from owners and resident ██████████ the Duke of Marlborough, according to Owen-Lloyd. These were rejected, partly on the basis that land is already leased and the case did not persist.

The hearing "can only consider under the 2008 planning act what is a planning matter", he said.

The planning examination and hearing started in May 2025. The final set of hearings were held in October and completed last year.

Botley West solar farm downsized

Botley West was planned to be the UK's largest solar farm, at 840 MW. Following talks on visual impact, it will resubmit plans to scale the project to 770 MW to the energy secretary this month, the project director added.

DESNZ approved the [Springwell solar project of just over 800 MW](#) earlier this year.

Owen-Lloyd was upbeat. One reason for delay was the grid queue, he said. But it now has a gate 2 offer from National Grid.

The examination authority was also "unhappy" about the visual impact of the plan, he said, and the developer had to "answer a number of questions" on the impact.

After working with planning authorities, he expects to have a decision agreed with the authorities next month.

Owen-Lloyd said: "The national policy statements are incredibly clear about the need for renewable energy and that the quickest and cheapest to deploy is ground-mounted solar.

Historic England has effectively backed the project and provided advice to the applicant.

██████████ said it was "disappointing" to reduce the project's scale but said it will be a better scheme as a result.

"We've had a lot of work to do since the request for information went out by the secretary of state on April 14," he said.

[Objection by residents to the impact on the landscape is common](#). Botley West received 1,300 relevant representations in the planning process, according to Owen-Lloyd.

The project includes 1,400 hectares, but the developer has said panels will only be installed on 850 of those hectares.

Appendix 2

Ingtorgstroy - Discovery Application - Summary with confirmation of New York court approval

In Re Application of [REDACTED]

New York Southern District Court

Judge:

Referred:

Case #:

Cause

in this district re: action in foreign cou

Case Filed:

Apr 05, 2022

Terminated:

Nov 16, 2022

Docket

Parties

Create an account to get the full party report for this case.

Docket last updated: 5 hours ago

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

12



1 pgs

order

Order of Dismissal

Wed 11/16 11:50 AM

ORDER: On April 5, 2022, Applicant JSC "INGTORGSTROY" filed an ex parte application for discovery pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1782. Dkt. No. 1. On April 14, 2022, Judge Parker granted that application. Dkt. No. 11. In light of Judge Parker's April 14, 2022 decision resolving the application that is the subject of this action, the Court orders that this matter be closed. The Clerk of Court is directed to close this case (Signed by Judge [REDACTED] on 11/16/2022) (rro)

Thursday, April 14, 2022

11



3 pgs

order

Order on Motion for Discovery

Thu 04/14 5:03 PM

ORDER GRANTING APPLICATION FOR JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. § 1782 granting 1 Motion for Discovery. Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED and ADJUGED as follows: 1. The Application is GRANTED. 2. Any Discovery taken pursuant to this Order will be governed by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. 3. The Applicant's request for leave to conduct discovery including, but not limited to, leave to serve subpoenas in substantially similar form as the form attached to the Application and to take testimony is GRANTED. The subpoena recipients shall have the right to object to the subpoenas in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. 4. The Applicant's request to be appointed as the person with the power to administer any necessary oath and take testimony or a statement is GRANTED. 5. The Respondents are ordered to preserve all relevant and potentially relevant evidence in their possession, custody or control until such time as Applicant communicates to them that the preservation is no longer necessary or until further order of this Court. 6. Applicant is further authorized to issue and serve additional follow-up subpoenas on the Respondents or third parties as may be necessary to obtain the documentary and testimonial evidence for use in the Foreign Proceedings. Any parties so served shall be permitted to serve objections to the subpoenas consistent with the Federal rules of procedure. 7. Applicant shall meet and confer with any subpoenaed and attempt to resolve disputes prior to bringing the subpoenas between Applicant and a subpoena recipient to compel and/or for a protective order. Applicant is not required to serve the subpoenas on Defendants and the Discovery Targets, as defined in the Declaration of Alexander Ingstorgstroy. 8. Applicant is not required to serve this Order or the subpoenas on Defendants and the Discovery Targets. 9. Nothing in this Order should be construed to prevent Applicant from seeking modification of this Order or leave of Court to serve a subpoena on any person or entity. IT IS SO ORDERED, this 14 day of April, 2022. (Signed by Mark H. Parker on 4/14/2022) (vfr)

Sunday, April 10, 2022

10



1 pgs

order

Order R

ORDER REFERRING CAS assignment to a Magistrate Ingstorgstroy for an order pursuant to Dkt. No. 1. Referred to Magistrate Judge [REDACTED]

Mon 04/11 10:43 AM

Order that case be referred to the Clerk of Court for Dispositive Motion/Dispute: The Ex Parte Application of JSC Ingstorgstroy for use in foreign proceedings. Dkt. No. 1. Motions referred to Katharine H. Parker. (Signed by Mark H. Parker on 4/11/2022) (vfr)

Thursday, April 07, 2022

9



misc

Proposed Order

PROPOSED ORDER. Doc No. 1. Referred to Magistrate Judge [REDACTED]

by. Related Document Number:1 ..(Vandenabeele, Thomas)

misc

Notice to Attorney Rega

/07 10:38 AM

***NOTICE TO ATTORNEY REGARDING PARTY MODIFICATION. Notice to attorney Thomas Philippe Vandenabeele. The party information for the following party/parties has been modified: JSC Ingstorgstroy. The information for the party/parties has been modified for the following reason/reasons: party name was entered with quotation marks; party role was entered incorrectly;. (vba)

notice**Miscellaneous Case Opening Initial Assignment Notice****Thu 04/07 10:41 AM**

MISCELLANEOUS CASE OPENING INITIAL ASSIGNMENT NOTICE: The above-entitled action is assigned to Judge Gregory H. Woods. Please download and review the Individual Practices of the assigned District Judge, located at[LINK:https://nysd.uscourts.gov/judges/district-judges] . Attorneys are responsible for providing courtesy copies to judges where their Individual Practices require such. Please download and review the ECF Rules and Instructions, located at[LINK:http://https://nysd.uscourts.gov/rules/ecf-related-instructions] . (vba)

misc**Notice to Attorney Regarding Deficient Proposed Order****Thu 04/07 11:07 AM**

***NOTICE TO ATTORNEY REGARDING DEFICIENT PROPOSED ORDER. Notice to attorney Thomas Vandenabeele to RE-FILE Document No. 5 Proposed Order. The filing is deficient for the following reason(s): The case number is missing on the document. Re-file the document using the event type Proposed Order found under the event list Proposed Orders. (km)

misc**Notice to Court Regarding Proposed Order****Thu 04/07 11:29 AM**

***NOTICE TO COURT REGARDING PROPOSED ORDER. Document No. 9 Proposed Order was reviewed and approved as to form. (km)

utility**Case Designation****Thu 04/07 2:42 PM**

Magistrate Judge Katharine H. Parker is so designated. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Section 636(c) and Fed. R. Civ. P. 73(b)(1) parties are notified that they may consent to proceed before a United States Magistrate Judge. Parties who wish to consent may access the necessary form at the following link:
[LINK:https://nysd.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/2018-06/AO-3.pdf] . (vba)

Wednesday, April 06, 2022

utility**Case Designated ECF****Wed 04/06 2:55 PM**

Case Designated ECF. (vba)

Tuesday, April 05, 2022

8**1 pgs****misc****Rule 7.1 Corporate Disclosure Statement****Tue 04/05 3:56 PM**

RULE 7.1 CORPORATE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT. Identifying Corporate Parent Financial Corporation Nikoil LLC for JSC "Ingorgstroy". Document filed by JSC "Ingorgstroy"..(Vandenabeele, Thomas)

7**misc****Miscellaneous Cover Sheet****Tue 04/05 3:22 PM**

MISCELLANEOUS COVER SHEET filed..(Vandenabeele, Thomas)

6**misc****Rule 7.1 Corporate Disclosure Statement****Tue 04/05 3:20 PM**

FILING ERROR - CORPORATE PARENT/OTHER AFFILIATE NOT ADDED - RULE 7.1 CORPORATE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT.. Document filed by JSC "Ingorgstroy"..(Vandenabeele, Thomas) Modified on 4/5/2022 (lb)

5**misc****Proposed Order****Tue 04/05 3:17 PM**

PROPOSED ORDER. Document filed by JSC "Ingorgstroy". Related Document Number:1 ..(Vandenabeele, Thomas)

4  21 pgs respm Memorandum of Law in Support of Motion Tue 04/05 3:15 PM

MEMORANDUM OF LAW in Support re:1 EX PARTE MISCELLANEOUS CASE INITIATING DOCUMENT - MOTION for Discovery Application for Judicial Assistance Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1782 . (Filing Fee \$ 49.00, Receipt Number ANYSDC-25963783) . Document filed by JSC "Ingorgstroy"..(Vandenabeele, Thomas)

3  respm Declaration in Support of Motion Tue 04/05 3:13 PM

DECLARATION of Thomas Vandenabeele in Support re:1 EX PARTE MISCELLANEOUS CASE INITIATING DOCUMENT - MOTION for Discovery Application for Judicial Assistance Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1782 . (Filing Fee \$ 49.00, Receipt Number ANYSDC-25963783). Document filed by JSC "Ingorgstroy"..(Vandenabeele, Thomas)

- Att: 1  4 pgs Exhibit A CHIPS Participants,
- Att: 2  19 pgs Exhibit B Fedwire participants,
- Att: 3  11 pgs Exhibit C US Dependencies,
- Att: 4  Exhibit D Excerpts from Accuity Bank Directory, Worldwide Correspondents,
- Att: 5  Exhibit E Barclays registration with NYSDFS,
- Att: 6  Exhibit Exhibit F TCH Headquarters

2  respm Declaration in Support of Motion Tue 04/05 2:53 PM

DECLARATION of ALEXANDRA FILIPPOVA in Support re:1 EX PARTE MISCELLANEOUS CASE INITIATING DOCUMENT - MOTION for Discovery Application for Judicial Assistance Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1782 . (Filing Fee \$ 49.00, Receipt Number ANYSDC-25963783). Document filed by JSC "Ingorgstroy"..(Vandenabeele, Thomas)

- Att: 1  18 pgs Exhibit 1- Debtor's Bankruptcy filing,
- Att: 2  12 pgs Exhibit 2- Decision liquidation of the Debtor's assets,
- Att: 3  13 pgs Exhibit 3- Decision establishing bank's claim,
- Att: 4  12 pgs Exhibit 4-1 Decision Court Moscow - guarantors bankrupt,
- Att: 5  10 pgs Exhibit 4-2 Decision Court Kaluga- guarantors bankrupt,
- Att: 6  12 pgs Exhibit 5-1 Decision Court Moscow - termination of guarantors bankruptcy proceedings,
- Att: 7  10 pgs Exhibit 5-2 Decision Court Kaluga - termination of guarantors bankruptcy proceedings,
- Att: 8  12 pgs Exhibit 6- Decision Applicant is the legal successor of the Bank

1  3 pgs motion Discovery Tue 04/05 2:43 PM

EX PARTE MISCELLANEOUS CASE INITIATING DOCUMENT - MOTION for Discovery Application for Judicial Assistance Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1782 . (Filing Fee \$ 49.00, Receipt Number ANYSDC-25963783) Document filed by JSC "Ingorgstroy"..(Vandenabeele, Thomas)

- Att: 1  Exhibit Sample Subpoena
-

misc

Notice to Attorney Regarding Deficient Rule 7.1 Corporate Disclosure Statement

Tue 04/05 3:49 PM

***NOTICE TO ATTORNEY REGARDING DEFICIENT RULE 7.1 CORPORATE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT.

[REDACTED] to RE-FILE Document No. 6 Rule 7.1 Corporate Disclosure Statement. The filing is deficient for the following reason(s): the corporate parent/other affiliate was not added;. Re-file the document using the event type Rule 7.1 Corporate Disclosure Statement found under the event list Other Documents - select the correct filer/filers - attach the correct PDF - when prompted with the message "Are there any corporate parents or other affiliates?", select the Yes radio button - enter the corporate parent/other affiliate, click the Search button - select the correct corporate parent/other affiliate name from the search results list or if no person found, create a new corporate parent/other affiliate - select the party to whom the corporate parent/other affiliate should be linked - add corporate parent/other affiliate names one at a time. (lb)

Continue to Create Account