

To the Rt. Hon Dr. Miatta Fahnbulleh MP,

Dear Dr. Fahnbulleh,

Botley West Solar Farm: EN010147

Over the past four years, PVDP / SolarFive have shown to us in this part of Oxford, that they are incapable of running a proper public consultation.

Perhaps this is understandable as according to their latest, 'small company', unaudited accounts filed for 2024, in the German 'Unternehmens Register', Photovolt Development Partners GmbH, had during that year, only three employees and two directors.

SolarFive Ltd, also a 'small company', had no employees other than the same two directors, Mr Peter Gerstmann and Mrs Yulia Lezhen (aka Mrs Julia Lejeune).

Their RVAA report was abysmal, as were so many items which they were required to produce. No one had bothered to visit the properties affected, despite having been invited to do so.

Despite being given an extension to 'correct their homework', they then needed another extension.

Mr Miliband's statement was most emphatic. As he put it:-

“The Secretary of State considers that maintaining discipline within the statutory framework established by the Planning Act 2008 (“PA 2008”) is of fundamental importance to the efficient and fair operation of the development consent regimes.”
“Agreeing to an extension of the duration sought, and at a late stage within the RFI response period, could create an undesirable precedent and risk undermining confidence in, and the integrity of, the planning process. It may also give rise to concerns of fairness, as other respondents are working to the existing timetable and would not have benefited from an equivalent extension.”

Yet, for some reason, their late submissions, which shifted the goal posts once more, were accepted.

A Community Consultation leaflet received, which I received from the developers in November 2022 stated that construction would start in the Summer of 2025.

Now, four years later they have not even been able to produce the required documents to the required standard.

You are being asked to give the very considerable powers inherent in a DCO to two foreign-owned companies, which are the subject of grave concerns, which have indeed been expressed in Parliament.

Too many questions remain unanswered and yet the Applicant seeks to defer too many important decisions until after any development consent is granted when they will be beyond public scrutiny and challenge.

In addition to the powers inherent in a DCO, they are now asking to be allowed to assume the powers of planners and be allowed to decide for themselves items such as the necessary distances from the power station to our homes.

They want to have the 250m default, which was recommended by the Examiners and previously shown in the Applicant's 9 June masterplan revision 4, to be reduced to 100m at their discretion.

To save the re-iteration of points which have been made previously by myself, many others and by the Stop Botley West campaign, I would simply say that I fully endorse the latter's comprehensive SBW submission of 16 July and the other points which they have raised in the last four years.

Very briefly, the Farmor valley must be one of the most unsuitable sites possible for a solar power station. It is arable land, the lower parts of which flood every winter. Being in a valley, it is impossible to screen the power station from view. It is green belt enjoyed by the community and ramblers from other parts with one of the best variety of bird life in the land.

The siting of lithium storage batteries in the valley would create an atrocious health risk to the nearby Filchampstead, Farmor, Eynsham, and indeed Botley, given the prevailing western winds, in the event of their combusting.

Please refuse this irretrievably flawed application outright.

Yours faithfully,

William McGill

Registration number [REDACTED]