



National Infrastructure
Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN

Customer
Services: 0303 444 5000
e-mail: beaconfen@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

To: The Applicant

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010151

Date: 20 November 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended)

Application by Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited for an order granting development consent for the Beacon Fen Energy Park Project

Procedural Decision regarding Notification of Proposed Change to the DCO Application

The applicant gave notice to the Examining Authority (ExA), on the 5 November 2025, of its intention to submit a request for a change to the Application by Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited for an order granting development consent for the Beacon Fen Energy Park Project. The ExA used its discretion and accepted the Notification of Proposed Change to the DCO [\[AS-029\]](#) on the 7 November 2025.

The document submitted [\[AS-029\]](#) identifies the nature of the change proposed and suggests how the change request could be accommodated within the Examination Timetable. The applicant states that it intends to submit the formal request to change the application on the 23 December 2025 following a 28 day consultation period which runs from Monday 10 November 2025 until the 7 December 2025.

In addition, the applicant also requested advice from the ExA on the applicant's approach by 26 November 2025 and a decision on whether to accept the proposed change by the 6 January 2026.

Proposed change

The applicant, in [\[AS-029\]](#) states that the proposed change is to the Bicker Fen Substation extension works and it includes a new overhead line (OHL) tower of up to 56.2 metres (m) in height, cabling and changes to the work areas which will be used for construction. The applicant also confirms that the proposed change would not alter the order limits as shown in the Development Consent Order (DCO) application and that it does not include a

request for additional powers of compulsory acquisition within the DCO application. As such, the applicant believes that the requirements of the Infrastructure Planning (Compulsory Acquisition) Regulations 2010 (the CA Regulations) do not apply to this change request.

Proposed consultation

The applicant also confirmed, in [\[AS-029\]](#), that it intended to carry out consultation on the proposed change to ensure that key stakeholders, including interested parties and the local community, are aware of the changes and have the opportunity to make comments and representations on them in advance of the submission of the change request.

To that end, the applicant commenced consultation on 10 November 2025 for a period of 28 days, until the 7 December 2025.

The applicant states that, in doing so, it has had regard to the PINS's advice in relation to [changes to an application after it has been accepted for examination](#) and that it considers that the proposed consultation initiated is appropriate and proportionate considering the nature of the change request. Additionally, the applicant also states that it shared an engagement strategy detailing the proposed consultation activities and timescales with the authorities where the proposed change is located namely, Boston Borough Council and Lincolnshire County Council.

The ExA's reasoning and view on the notification of change request and proposed consultation

At CAH1, on the 11 November 2025, the ExA asked the applicant to introduce the notification of intention to submit a change request, as submitted, and briefly set out the nature of the change and the applicant's consultation proposals. The applicant was able to confirm that it had started consultation on the proposed change on the 10 November 2025 in line with the scope, criteria and aims set out in the notification letter [\[AS-029\]](#).

In addition, the applicant also confirmed its request for the ExA's advice by the 26 November 2025 on the notification of intention to submit a change request.

As set out in PINS's advice in relation to [changes to an application after it has been accepted for examination](#), following from the change notification, the ExA is expected to provide advice to the applicant about the procedural implications of the proposed change which include the need, scale and nature of consultation that the applicant should undertake before formally submitting the change application.

Consequently, and considering that the applicant has already started its consultation on the proposed change request, the ExA is limited in its scope and ability to advise the applicant on the need, scale and nature of consultation required. However, the ExA recognises the efforts that the applicant has made in order to ensure that an appropriate level of consultation is carried out and is minded, based on the description of the change request and the information presented by the applicant, to consider it unlikely for any further consultation to be needed.

The ExA also confirms that, based on the information provided by the applicant in the notification letter [\[AS-029\]](#), that the proposed change is unlikely to trigger the application of the CA Regulations and that it is unlikely that the proposed change is so material as to constitute a materially different project or that it will be considered, individually or cumulatively, to lead to the project being different in nature or substance to which was originally accepted for examination.

The ExA would, however, like to highlight that it will only be in a position to confirm its position in relation to the need, or not, for further consultation and the materiality of the proposed change once the change request has been formally submitted and the nature of the change request confirmed.

The ExA would also like to draw the applicant's attention to the information that it will expect to receive, in support of the change request, which is set out in the PINs guidance under [Step 4](#).

Indicative programme

The ExA acknowledges and thanks the applicant for the submission of an indicative programme which highlights the applicant's proposed timetable in relation to the change request.

However and in the interest of time, the ExA would request that the applicant considers if there is scope to reduce the period between the end of the proposed consultation (7 December 2025) and the submission of the change application (23 December 2025). Any reduction of time may assist the ExA in fully considering the change request and potentially accepting the change into examination at an earlier date than the 6 January 2026, as welcomed by the applicant.

Yours faithfully,

Andre Pinto

Andre Pinto
Examining Authority

This communication does not constitute legal advice.

Please view our ['Privacy Notice'](#) before sending information to The Planning Inspectorate.