

Further to the above relevant representations and the issue specific hearing last week which included the draft DCO, please note SP Energy Networks is in discussions with the applicant regarding the comments raised in the RRs. In the event that these discussions do not result in changes sought by SP Energy Networks then please note it may be necessary to attend the Issue Specific Hearing on 24th February.

The RRs set out that SPEN on behalf of the asset owner, SP Manweb, requires measures are in place to:

- protect network assets and ensure safe working around the affected SPM network and requires a plan showing all of the SPM network and an assessment of the impact of the proposals on this network; and
- draft protective provisions which protect SPMs statutory undertakers' rights.

The required statutory clearances between the proposed ground mounted solar panels and the existing overhead lines are not met by the current proposed design. There are measures set out in the draft DCO requiring SPM approvals to proposals within 15m of any SPM assets. However given the current design's lack of clearances between the overhead lines and the 4m high solar panels, it is considered further statements and commitments need to be made to ensure the required clearances are safeguarded at this stage prior to consent being granted and not post consent in applying the protective provisions. SPEN considers its RRs are not being taken into account.

SP Energy Networks is continuing to raise this matter with the applicant and will provide an update to the Examining Authority in due course.