

Rosefield Solar Farm Preliminary Biosecurity Statement

EN010118/APP/8.28
Revision 01
Deadline 4
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Rosefield Energyfarm Ltd



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1. Background

- 1.1.1. TCS Biosciences (TCS) and Preston Farms Limited (PFL) have raised concerns during Rosefield consultation and Examination about potential biosecurity risks to their animals and business, which is subject to strict regulation and biosecurity controls to ensure the continuity of their supply and quality of their biomedical products.
- 1.1.2. To minimise any potential disruptions and biosecurity risks to their business operations, the Applicant has committed in the **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (Outline CEMP) [EN010158/APP/7.2.5]** updated at Deadline 2 to appropriate biosecurity measures reflective of the TCS/PFL's own biosecurity practices and provision of toolbox talks to relevant site staff about the sensitive nature of their specialist operations.
- 1.1.3. TCS/PFL have provided further information on their biosecurity requirements at Deadline 3 [[REP3-067](#)] and advise that further detail will be submitted at Deadline 4. This Preliminary Biosecurity Statement sets out the Applicant's general proposed approach to biosecurity, which will be developed in more detail upon receipt of further information regarding the terms of the TCS/PFL Home Office Licence and the existing biosecurity measures in grazing fields and around the silage clamp. A more detailed Biosecurity Method Statement will be prepared and appended to the detailed Construction Environmental Management Plan at the detailed design stage, as secured in the **Outline CEMP [EN010158/APP/7.2.5]** submitted at Deadline 4.

2. Proposed Approach to Biosecurity

2.1. Construction Phasing

- 2.1.1. It is not currently known where the TCS/PFL horses and sheep will be located during construction within Parcel 3 of the Proposed Development as this depends on construction phasing, seasonality and TCS/PFL occupancy and crop/grazing rotation at that time. Further coordination and consultation with TCS/PFL will be undertaken regarding the Proposed Development construction programme and efforts will be made to reduce potential impacts through construction phasing. At least 6 months' advance notification of any construction activities in proximity to areas occupied by TCS/PFL will be provided, as secured in the **Outline CEMP [EN010158/APP/7.2.5]**.
- 2.1.2. The Applicant has also offered temporary grazing land in Parcel 2, away from the area of proposed construction activities to further mitigate the risk posed by construction activities. In the event that there will be grazing in the field where the construction access is located and/or in fields adjacent to construction activities, the measures below will be implemented.

2.2. Construction/Operational Compounds

- 2.2.1. In response to concerns raised by TCS/PFL in **Written summaries of oral submissions made at the hearings and any other post hearing submissions [REP3-067]** submitted at Deadline 3, construction and operational compounds will be located outside of Fields SA46-SA50 and Field E23 in order to avoid attracting heightened levels of construction activity to these areas. The associated documents that form part of the DCO Application have been amended at Deadline 4 to reflect this amendment.

2.3. Access Track Arrangements

- 2.3.1. The location of the construction and operational access track within Fields SA46, SA47, SA49 and/or SA50 ('the access corridor') will be determined in consultation with TCS/PFL in order to minimise potential impacts, and every effort will be made to accommodate their preferred location, assuming that it offers a direct route to Field E23 and that it is acceptable from a highways safety perspective.
- 2.3.2. The access track would be a defined route up to 5.5m wide and typically constructed of a thick gravel layer or hydraulically bound mixture on subgrade subbase. No deviation from this track within the access corridor by vehicles or Rosefield personnel on foot would be permitted. The track would serve as a buffer between the vehicles and the soil to minimise the

risk of soil disturbance and release of mould or other pathogens as highlighted as a concern in the TCS/PFL submission [\[REP3-067\]](#).

- 2.3.3. The track would be clearly delineated and separated from adjoining grazing land. The Applicant's preference is for the access route to be fenced and gated (with potential animal crossings if desired) although it would also be possible to avoid the use of fences and gates if preferred. Hoarding could also be used if preferred. The gate system would prevent access for construction or operational vehicles while animals are crossing. There would be no casual access from other areas within the Site across TCS/PFL land without approval and appropriate sanitation measures/checks and/or escort.
- 2.3.4. An indicative arrangement for the construction access and fencing is proposed in the **Construction Access Review [EN010158/APP/8.29]**.

2.4. Site Access Procedures

- 2.4.1. Any Rosefield personnel seeking access to the Site would need to complete a site induction (including a TCS/PFL-specific induction) prior to access. Access will be controlled, sign-in/sign-out procedure would be in place, with named person access only and access control records would be maintained. Traffic management software will be used across the whole Site to log all vehicle movements to the Site and around the Site.
- 2.4.2. A cross-contamination protocol including bootwash and/or disposable overshoes and clothing standards will be implemented in Parcel 3 where required in consultation with TCS/PFL. In addition, during construction, Rosefield personnel would be prohibited from exiting their vehicles until they have reached the Primary Construction Compound in Field E21 or E22, except for cable installation works and track establishment.
- 2.4.3. During operation, Rosefield personnel would be prohibited from exiting their vehicles until they reach the operational Site boundary at the southern entrance to Field E23. There would be strict no-contact rules for animals and farm infrastructure during all phases of the Proposed Development.
- 2.4.4. There would be no photography or filming except for standard uses of drones on the Site to facilitate module testing and checks on construction progress, in which case prior notification would be provided. Any such data gathered would be strictly confidential and would not be put into the public domain.
- 2.4.5. Construction works would be co-ordinated with TCS/PFL to avoid vehicle access when the animals need to be moved for donation sessions in order to minimise potential disturbance or cross-contamination on these occasions. Proposed animal movements will be incorporated into the

construction programme. Further information on the proposed construction track access strategy is provided in Section 5.3 of the **Construction Access Review [EN010158/APP/8.29]**.

2.5. Enforcement and Communication

- 2.5.1. During construction, TCS/PFL would have direct contact with the Rosefield Construction Manager and the Land Manager. Any concerns raised throughout construction such as noise or biosecurity will be responded to promptly and no longer than within 2 working days. There would also be an out of hours contact available in case of urgent issues.
- 2.5.2. A weekly meeting with TCS Biosciences and the construction team including but not limited to the topics below is proposed, as also set out in the **Construction Access Review [EN010158/APP/8.29]**
- Update on biosecurity matters;
 - Construction progress update;
 - Issues and improvements to access;
 - Timing of any specific events;
 - General transport and construction update.
- 2.5.3. A Site Health and Safety Manager would be responsible for enforcing compliance with biosecurity measures. Enforcement of Health & Safety procedures including biosecurity is tightly controlled internally with regular spot checks, reminders on notice boards and record-keeping.
- 2.5.4. Rosefield construction contractors will be contractually obligated to follow the detailed biosecurity measures, which will be confirmed at the detailed design stage prior to construction. Any deviation from these measures will be taken up directly with the contractors and could result in termination of contract in the event of a significant breach.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1.1. The Applicant recognises the sensitivity of TCS/PFL operations and will continue to work to minimise any biosecurity risks during construction or operation. The list above is not complete or final and should therefore be considered as a starting point for further consideration. Should consent be granted for the Proposed Development, a detailed Biosecurity Method Statement will be developed in consultation with TCS/PFL at the detailed design stage, once the Proposed Development design and TCS/PFL grazing schedule for the construction phase are known. This is secured in the revised **Outline CEMP [EN010158/APP/7.2.5]** submitted at Deadline 4.



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