

c/o Mr. Edwin Maund,  
Lead Panel Member for the Examining Authority,  
National Infrastructure Planning,  
Temple Quay House,  
2 The Square,  
Bristol.  
BS1 6PN

15<sup>th</sup> August 2025

Dear Mr. Maund,

**Anglian Water Response to ExA Written Questions 1 for One Earth Solar Farm – Deadline 2**

I write in response to your request under Q12.0.5 and Q12.0.7:

***Compliance with the Water Framework Directive***

**Q12.0.5** - *A number of IPs [including RR-007, RR-095] have expressed concern of the potential adverse effect on soil health, the environment and drinking water.*

*(1) Please advise if there are any concerns that arise from the proposed development in respect of any effects that may arise on drinking water, either during construction, operation or subsequent decommissioning.*

*(2) Please advise on whether you consider the Water Framework Directive would be complied with, and if you are content that mitigation offered through the DCO would meet with any concerns identified."*

***Response:***

Anglian Water wishes to raise the following points in relation to Q12.0.5. There are a number of potential risks to drinking water, given there is an abstraction location point just downstream of this proposed development. These are set out below:

1. Potential for sediment erosion increase caused during construction, operation, and subsequent decommissioning stages.
2. Potential chemical leakage during construction, operation, and subsequent decommissioning stages which will require monitoring.
3. Vegetation management during the operation stage of the development to avoid harsh chemicals or pesticides and their application etc. We note it has been confirmed that for washing of the solar panels only water will be used.

The application submission documents, oCEMP, oOEMP and oDEMP do identify risks, mitigation and a monitoring regime regarding these issues but in general terms only. Anglian Water ask

that the detailed versions of these documents make specific reference to the fact that there is an abstraction location nearby and that there is the potential for contamination affecting water quality to be caused, depending on different practices as demonstrated above.

We would wish to be able to comment on the further versions of the document prior to their finalisation. Anglian Water request to be added as a named consultee on these documents under the requirements in the DCO to discharge these documents.

## **Water Resources**

**Q12.0.7** - *We note the content of page 37 of the oCEMP, stating that if demand for potable water exceeds 20m<sup>3</sup>/day, then a Water Resource Assessment will be produced. (1) What are the implications for the delivery of the project in the event that the scheme were to require in excess of 20m<sup>3</sup>/day? (2) In the absence of the WRA at this stage can the SoS be satisfied that the project could be delivered within the time frames currently proposed – i.e. to be operational by 2029? (3) Please explain in the absence of this information at this stage how the scheme complies with the tests in EN-1.*

### **Response:**

Anglian Water has provided information to the Applicant regarding the process for making requests for water supply for both domestic and non-domestic purposes. This included a copy of our policy position statement on water requests for non-domestic purposes for over 20m<sup>3</sup> per day and a Water Resources Assessment (WRA) to be completed – see further explanation below.

It is noted in Sections of 7.6.23 – 7.6.31 of Chapter 7: Hydrology and Hydrogeology of the Environment Statement (ES) that indicative calculations have been undertaken to determine the potential water demand during construction and in a worst-case scenario it is anticipated that 64.8m<sup>3</sup>/ per day could be required. This value is said to be conservative for a number of reasons such as peaking factor, number of personnel and water usage per person.

The ES also states that detailed design, further clarity and detailed estimates of potable water demand would be provided and further consultation held with Anglian Water to confirm their capacity to supply this water. This references the commitment in the oCEMP.

Anglian Water has a statutory duty to supply water for domestic purposes. This means we are legally obliged to supply water to all household properties as well as any domestic requirements (e.g., drinking water, hand-basins, toilets and showers) of non-household properties. In many cases, domestic demand will be the only requirement for non-household properties (e.g., schools, hospitals, offices, shops and hairdressers). Non-domestic demand refers to water use for industrial processes, (e.g., agri-food production or car washes), and there is no legal requirement for us to supply for this type of water usage where it might put at risk our ability to supply water for domestic purposes.

Although Anglian Water do not have a statutory obligation to supply for non-domestic purposes in these circumstances, we factor this into our Water Resources Management Plan 2025-2050 (WRMP24) and we do everything we can to support businesses in the region, with the help of the water retail market. However, as described above, the situation is now changing, due to

water supply being squeezed by abstraction reduction, climate change and a fast-growing population.

Therefore, where new and unplanned non-domestic requests are received, which exceed 20m<sup>3</sup>/per day (this may be less dependent on the availability of water in that area) or where there is a cumulative impact from a significant number of smaller requests, there might be the need to decline in order to protect existing supplies and the environment. Anglian Water has adopted a 'Non-Domestic Water Requests Policy' to explain this.

However, for NSIPs that are requesting over 20m<sup>3</sup>/per day of non-domestic water (as defined above) for a scheme, a WRA must be completed. This is so we can better understand water demands, water efficiency measures and more effectively forecast water supply requirements. This will help enable us to support projects that help achieve national ambitions such as achieving net zero carbon and unlocking sustainable growth. However, this is subject to a director level review within Anglian Water and can take some time to approve. In some instances, even NSIPS may ultimately be refused their requested non-domestic water request. For information, copies of these referenced documents are attached.

Anglian Water recommends the Applicant undertakes further engagement on its requirement for potable water (domestic and non-domestic purposes) at the different stages of the Project. Given the preliminary estimation of water demand figures quoted in the ES and Project delivery timescales, it would be prudent to undertake this as soon as possible and submit a pre-planning enquiry including a completed WRA. This should indicate those temporary requirements for water supply at the construction stage. Given the nature of the scheme, it is likely this will require the most amount of water resource in the shorter term.

Should you have any queries relating to this response please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

*C. Murphy (signed)*

Carry Murphy  
Chartered Town Planner - MRTPI  
Spatial and Strategic Planning Manager – Sustainable Growth