DCO Application by One Earth Solar Farm Limited for One Earth Solar Farm

Submitted Answers prepared by National Grid Electricity Transmission ("NGET") in response to the Examining Authority's written questions and requests for information (ExQ1)

NGET reference FA1FC2D6F

ExQ1	Question to:	Questions	NGET Answers
1.	**General and cross-topic questions**		
Q1.0.1	**The Applicant** **National Grid Electricity Transmission**	**(1)This substation would not yet appear to have consent. Please provide details of when it is anticipated an application will be made and provide as full explanation as possible how the timing of the application for the substation and the programme for this application is proposed to happen/coincide.**	*NGET is actively preparing a planning application pursuant to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the new 400kV High Marnham substation which NGET are aiming to formally submit to Bassetlaw Council for approval by the end of 2025.*
		(2) Are you aware of any potential impediments to the progress of the substation?	*The progress of the substation will be subject to obtaining the required planning consent and relevant land rights. However, at this stage NGET does not foresee any major impediments to the progress of the substation.*
		(3) When is it anticipated the substation will be completed and the solar farm might have the ability to physically connect to the Grid?	*It is currently anticipated that the new 400kV High Marnham substation will be operational by Winter 2029, subject to obtaining the required planning consent and relevant land rights.*

Q1.0.2	**The Applicant** **National Grid Electricity Transmission**	**<u>Connection to the National Grid</u>** **(1) In order to understand the offer made – can both National Grid and the Applicant provide details of the steps to be taken in advance of any construction works.**	*Construction of the 400kV High Marnham Substation can commence, subject to the normal regulatory approvals, and once the required planning consents as well as the relevant land rights are secured.*
		(2) Where does this proposal fit within the Grid Prioritisation assessment/exercise that the ExA understands is underway (announced by the SoS for Energy Security and Net Zero) on 15 April 2025? (https://www.gov.uk/government/news/clean-energy-projects-prioritised-for- grid-connections)	*On 15 April 2025, the energy regulator for Great Britain, Ofgem, approved the National Energy System Operator's ('NESO') Target Model Option 4 package of reforms of the electricity connection process, including the industry code and licence modifications that enable it, this package of reforms are known as TMO4+ and they came into effect on 10 June 2025.* *NESO is responsible for administering TMO4+. NESO is a separate entity, who is no longer in the National Grid Group, created under the UK's 2023 Energy Act, and is responsible for overseeing, operating and balancing the National Electricity Transmission System ("NETS") in Great Britain. National Grid Electricity Transmission ("NGET") is a statutory undertaker who owns, operates and maintains the Electricity Transmission System in England and Wales.* *<u>How the TMO4+Connections Process works</u>* *The TMO4+ process will require projects (existing or new), who want to connect to the NETS to apply to NESO for a place in the newly reformed connections queue.* *To be provided with a connection offer, projects need to comply with new "Gate 2" criteria, which looks at how ready a project is and whether they are aligned to the strategic energy needs, set by DESNZ and Ofgem, of Great Britain. NESO carries out this assessment against these criteria. The process is still in the application window, which is due to close on 26 August 2025. Once the application window closes, NESO will review the applications and notify NGET (as the Transmission Owner for England and Wales) of the newly formed queue, and which projects have been successful. This notification is expected to occur in October 2025.*

		(3) Are there further legislative steps required to facilitate the change in prioritization/ or to remove 'zombie' projects from the connection list? If this is the case please explain what these might be, and when it is anticipated that this legislation/change in regulation might occur? Would any of these changes influence the proposed connection date?	*Please see our reply to point (2), which confirms that the electricity licence and industry code changes were approved by Ofgem on 15 April 2025 and came into effect on 10 June 2025. These were the main changes to enact TMO4+, NGET is not aware of any proposed future changes, but it is likely that further changes will be raised in the future as the industry further develops.*
		(4) Would any of these changes influence the proposed connection date?	*Please see our reply to point (2). NGET cannot confirm if TMO4+ will change the connection date for the User, One Earth Solar. However, the TMO4+ process will involve reordering the existing connections queue based on project "readiness" and "strategic need". This could include changes to the connection date but is subject to the criteria and codified process administered by NESO.*
Q1.0.3	**National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)**	**<u>Grid Connection</u>** **The ExA understand that a connection agreement has been made with the applicant for 740MW with a connection date of 2029 and as reported in the SoCG at D1.** **(1)Please advise when in 2029 that it is anticipated to be connected, or if the end date to meet the obligation of the agreement in effect means by the end of 2029.**	*As set out in the Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC) Register on the NESO website the connection date is 31 October 2029.*
		(2) In light of this potential timeframe, is there any possibility the project could contribute towards achieving beneficial climate change contributions by 2030?	*The new 400kV High Marnham substation is being delivered as part of The Great Grid Upgrade. The Great Grid Upgrade comprises 17 major infrastructure projects brought forward by NGET that will both scale up the grid and update our existing networks enabling the electricity grid to carry more clean, secure energy from where it's generated to where its needed.*

Q1.0.4	**NGET**	**<u>High Marnham Capacity</u>** **The ExA understand that the offer made to the applicant is to connect to a 400kv substation, which is the subject of a future planning application yet to be submitted to the local authority.** **Please advise what the substation facilitates in terms of the capacity available at High Marnham at the present time and the capacity that it is anticipated would be available once the substation were to be constructed, assuming that this were to get permission.**	*It is anticipated that the network between the North of England and the Midlands needs to be capable of transferring around 31GW of electricity by 2035 compared to the 11.6gw that it can transfer today. Some of the existing network in the centre of the country operates at 275kv, which limits its capacity. The construction of the new 400kV High Marnham Substation forms part of a package of project works, including the upgrading of some of the existing overhead electricity lines to the current High Marnham Substation from 275kv to 400kv,which will reinforce the electricity transmission network and enable electricity to be transported at different higher voltages. This will therefore provide an increase in capacity on the electricity transmission network between South Yorkshire and the North Midlands area. The current High Marnham Substation is at 275kV and will be uprated to 400kV which will provide 3.6 gigawatts capacity.*
Q1.0.5	**NGET**	**<u>Humber to High Marnham Reinforcement</u>** **Please confirm whether the reinforcement work proposed to be undertaken from the Humber to High Marnham, which is understood to be part of a future NSIP application provides additional capacity at High Marnham, which might allow future grid connection capacity in this location.**	*The North Humber to High Marnham (NHHM) project is an NSIP being brought forward by NGET as part of the Great Grid Upgrade. The proposed reinforcement is required to increase the capability of the electricity transmission network between the north of England and the Midlands. It is also needed to facilitate the connection of proposed new offshore wind farms that are planned in the Creyke Beck Area. NHHM connects into the proposed new High Marnham Substation where existing high voltage overhead lines can carry the power further south into the Midlands. NHHM provides a boundary uplift. It is not designed to provide additional capacity at High Marnham*
Q1.0.6	**NGET**	**<u>High Marnham</u>** **In the Bassetlaw District Council RR [AS-002] reference is made to a planning application and a further screening opinion which would appear to seek to facilitate additional battery storage.** **(1) In order to fully understand the possible cumulative effects of potential development in the vicinity, can you confirm if these proposals would utilise the full capacity currently available at High Marnham?**	*NGET understands that there are a number of potential customers who may want to connect to the substation. This is a matter for those customers to consider and so it's not possible for NGET to give the confirmation sought, nor to provide a definitive view regarding current capacity and the extent to which it will be utilised.*

		(2) Would this change if the 400kv substation referred to in the connection agreement is provided, and/or the Humber to High Marnham DCO were to be implemented?	*NGET is unable to comment at this stage on the utilisation of the capacity of the substation once implemented. As the NHHM project develops, information regarding substation capacity and utilisation levels shall become more apparent (including at such time when negotiations are undertaken with proposed customers wishing to connect to the substation).*
9.	**Compulsory acquisition, temporary possession and other land or rights considerations**		
ExQ1	**Question to:**	**Question and Answers**	**Answers**
Q9.0.7	**Statutory Undertakers**	**<u>Sections 127 and 138 of the PA2008</u>** **Do the Statutory Undertakers have any concerns about whether the tests set out in s127(3), s127(6), and s138(4) of the PA2008 have been met?**	*NGET has interest in the Order land for the purposes of its undertaking as an Electricity Act 1989 licence holder.* *NGET's rights of access to inspect, maintain, renew and repair such apparatus located within or in close proximity to the Order Limits must be maintained at all times and access to inspect and maintain such apparatus must not be restricted. NGET will require appropriate protection for retained or proposed apparatus, including compliance with relevant standards for works proposed within close proximity of its apparatus or proposed apparatus where the Applicant intends to acquire land or rights, or interfere with any of NGET's interests in land or NGET's apparatus.* *NGET will therefore require appropriate protection in the form of entering into a Side Agreement and through its Protective Provisions. The Protective Provisions will ensure that (if necessary) <u>no</u> compulsory acquisition powers over NGET's land can be exercised without NGET's agreement.* *Without the Protective Provisions and the Side Agreement being secured, NGET would not consider that those tests are met.*

Q9.0.10	**The Applicant** **All Statutory Undertakers**	**<u>Protective Provisions</u>** **The ExA understand that conversations are being undertaken between the Applicant and various parties**	*Negotiations between the Applicant and NGET are ongoing.*
Q9.0.11		**Can all statutory undertakers who do not have agreement on the wording of protective provisions, please provide their preferred wording and the justification for such wording where it differs from that proposed by the Applicant.**	*It is noted that the draft Order as applied for did not include suitable protective provisions for the benefit of NGET, NGET has therefore issued its Protective Provisions to the Applicant and is awaiting a response.* *In light of the interactions with NHHM project and the project to deliver the new 400kV High Marnham Substation, NGET requires that the Protective Provisions include cooperation provisions for its future assets including the future assets to be provided by the NHHM project and the project to deliver the new 400kV High Marnham Substation . The recently granted Awel Y Mor Development Consent Order ("AYM DCO") and Mona Offshore Wind Development Consent Order ("Mona DCO") provide precedents for the protection of NGET future assets via protective provisions. NGET will require the Applicant's collaboration to safeguard its ability to deliver future assets related to the One Earth Solar Project's connection.*