



UK Health Security Agency

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Your Ref: EN010159
Our Ref: CIRIS 94033

Mr Edwin Maund
Lead Member of the Panel of Examining Inspectors
National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
BRISTOL BS1 6PN

28th November 2025

Dear Mr Maund

**Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
One Earth Solar Farm
Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules
2010 - Rule 17: Request for further information**

Thank you for your letter dated 19th November 2025 inviting the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) to answer the specific written question concerning the 'impact of BESS on human health', as shown below. ***Please note that we request views from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) and the response provided is sent on behalf of both UKHSA and OHID.***

Human Health

Q14.0.4

Impact of BESS on human health

During the recent Open Floor Hearing held on 6 November (Recording available at EV9-002) (Relevant extract from the transcript page 3 of EV9-003) Interested Parties raised concerns that the UKHSA had not been involved in the application.

This concern has been explained further in the submissions from Sheila and Jane Pumfrey [REP5-109 and REP5-100]

Can the UKHSA confirm they have no concerns in respect of effects on human health from this proposed development.

We note that we have also replied to earlier consultations, as listed below, and this response should also be read in conjunction with that earlier correspondence.

Pre-application (Pre-Scoping) Opinion: 07/11/2023
Request for Scoping Opinion: 07/12/2023
Public Consultation: Section 42: 05/07/2024
Proposed Fire-fighting Process: 08/09/2025

Our most recent response concerning all aspects of the application in which UKHSA and OHID has an interest, was at the Public Consultation: Section 42 stage. Relevant excerpts from our response at this stage can be found in Appendix 1 to this letter. Other than a recommendation about the inclusion of further information in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) concerning electromagnetic fields (EMF), our overall conclusion at that stage was as follows:

....we have considered the submitted documentation and can confirm that we are satisfied with the approach taken in preparing the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the conclusions drawn.

We were subsequently consulted by the applicant about the proposed fire-fighting process and outline Battery Management Safety Plan. Relevant excerpts from our response at this stage can be found in Appendix 2 to this letter. Our conclusion when consulted on this specific matter was as follows:

... given the limited residential receptors nearby, and within the modelled hydrogen fluoride (HF) plume area, we anticipate that the public health impacts from a controlled burn approach would probably be low.

In conclusion, our position with respect to the above consultation responses remains the same.

We note the concerns raised about risks posed to surface waters and groundwater from any uncontrolled emissions from a fire involving a battery energy storage system (BESS). We would recommend that any questions of this nature are addressed to the Environment Agency in respect of controlled waters; Anglian Water in respect of its assets; and Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service in respect of the proposed fire-fighting process and measures to contain and manage any fire-water runoff.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of UK Health Security Agency
nsipconsultations@ukhsa.gov.uk

Please mark any correspondence for the attention of National Infrastructure Planning Administration.

**Relevant excerpts from UKHSA's & OHID's response at the Public Consultation
Section 42 Stage (dated 05/07/2024)**

Thank you for your consultation regarding the above development. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) welcomes the opportunity to comment on your proposals and Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) at this stage of the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).

Please note that we have replied to earlier consultations as listed below and this response should be read in conjunction with that earlier correspondence:

*Pre-application (Pre-Scoping) Opinion: 07/11/2023
Request for Scoping Opinion: 07/12/2023*

We have assessed the submitted documentation and wish to make the following comments:

Environmental Public Health

*Regarding the discussion on the electromagnetic fields (EMFs) produced by electricity cables associated with the site (PEIR Volume 1, Chapter 7 Human Health, p25), UKHSA request a more detailed assessment based on the following voluntary code of practice which sets out key principles for complying with the ICNIRP guidelines:
[DECC report \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/publishing.service.gov.uk/decc-report)*

Otherwise, we have considered the submitted documentation and can confirm that we are satisfied with the approach taken in preparing the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the conclusions drawn.

Relevant excerpts from UKHSA's & OHID's response when consulted on the proposed fire-fighting process (dated 08/09/2025)

Thank you for your original e-mail dated 20th August 2025 inviting the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) to provide comments on the proposed fire-fighting process relating to the above Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).

We note that your approach to us has been prompted by feedback you have received from Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue Service. It is our understanding that the National Fire Chiefs' Council is currently developing some guidance, jointly with the Environment Agency, for responses to large lithium-ion battery fires. Further to this, UKHSA would advise on the potential public health impacts if a fire and rescue service had any concerns over the tactics they might employ at this type of fire.

We have undertaken a review of your Outline Battery Safety Management Plan, noting that whilst a decision as to whether the Eastern or the Western Bulk Energy Storage System (BESS) site is developed has yet to be made, both are primarily rural in nature.

Our conclusion is that given the limited residential receptors nearby, and within the modelled hydrogen fluoride (HF) plume area, we anticipate that the public health impacts from a controlled burn approach would probably be low.

We note that we have replied to earlier consultations, as listed below, and this response should also be read in conjunction with that earlier correspondence.

<i>Pre-application (Pre-Scoping) Opinion:</i>	<i>07/11/2023</i>
<i>Request for Scoping Opinion:</i>	<i>07/12/2023</i>
<i>Public Consultation: Section 42</i>	<i>04/07/2024</i>