

Mr Ray & Dr Sarah Armstrong

[REDACTED]

To: The Planning Inspectorate, 16th Dec 2025

Pollution and health risks fears from BESS Fire Emissions

Dear Sirs,

My name is Ray Armstrong, and together with my wife, Dr. Sarah Armstrong, we are members of the 'Say No to One Earth Solar Farm' campaign. We are deeply concerned that the developers of the One Earth Solar Farm may be significantly downplaying the potential risks associated with the project, particularly to nearby water supplies, poultry farms, and surrounding homes and settlements in the event of a BESS (Battery Energy Storage System) fire. The presentation of their data appears to focus only on the most favourable scenarios, which may not reflect the full range of potential hazards.

Please see our detailed findings and concerns outlined below, which we urge the Planning Inspectorate to consider carefully in their assessment of this application.

Excerpts from EN010159-000515-7.11 (page 64) Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (clean).pdf)

C.4.4.1. As illustrated in **Figure C.2**, at the eastern BESS site, in all emission rate scenarios there are no sensitive receptors located within the area where the assessment level may be exceeded in 90% of meteorological conditions. Thus, it can be concluded that a fire at the eastern BESS site would not result in any significant adverse health effects.

Our Note: Based on publicly available wind pattern analysis (see image below), the statement in the developer's document appears to be incorrect. Moreover, there are several sensitive receptors in this area, including three large poultry farms housing approximately 500,000 birds, a drinking water treatment plant supplying around 100,000 people, a 20-acre reservoir, numerous homes, the busy A1133 main road, and North Clifton village itself.

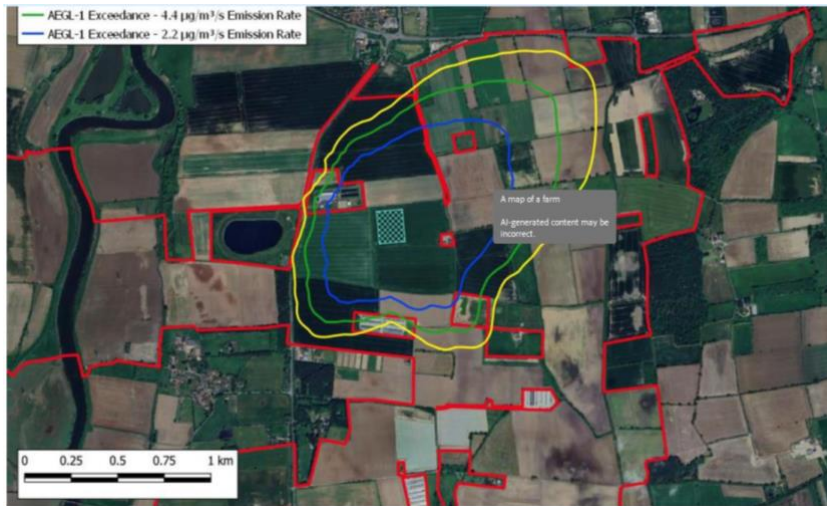


Image (page 65 of EN010159-000515-7.11 Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (clean).pdf)

The wind/emissions/fallout diagram (above) is presented in a way that highlights the most ideal and least impactful wind direction. It is therefore disappointing that the developers have chosen to display the data under the most favourable conditions, as it is clear that if the wind were to blow from the east, the 20-acre North Clifton Reservoir would fall within the affected zones, and winds from the northeast would similarly place North Clifton itself within these zones. This selective presentation understates the potential risks under more realistic or less favourable wind conditions.

Below is a breakdown of wind directions and percentages for Nottinghamshire, more detailed breakdowns can be seen in the met office website

West (W): 25%, Southwest (SW): 23%, Northeast (NE): 11%, South (S): 10%, North (N): 9%, Northwest (NW): 9%, East (E): 9%, Southeast (SE): 4%

When documents are consistently presented in such a favourable manner, it can be disheartening and undermines confidence in the information provided. This approach gives the impression that the data has been selectively framed to support a preferred outcome rather than offering a balanced and transparent assessment. Consequently, it raises doubt about the reliability of all the information presented and whether potential risks and less favourable scenarios have been fully and honestly considered.

A BESS (Battery Energy Storage System) fire can release a range of hazardous gases, including hydrogen fluoride, carbon monoxide, and other toxic fumes from burning lithium-ion cells. Exposure to these gases can be harmful to humans, causing respiratory irritation, chemical burns, or more serious health effects in high concentrations. For poultry farms, these fumes could stress or even kill birds, leading to significant animal welfare and economic impacts. If the gases or firefighting runoff reach local water supplies, they could contaminate drinking water, posing risks to both public health and the environment.

We therefore urge the Planning Inspectorate to carefully take into account the developers' reliance on presenting only the scenarios most favourable to their proposal when assessing this application.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Ray Armstrong and Dr Sarah Armstrong