

From: Mayor (GreaterLincolnshire-CCA) [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 June 2026 17:02
To: One Earth Solar
Attachments: Letter from [REDACTED] to SoS regarding one earth solar farm June 2026.docx
Categories: Awaiting reply

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To: The Planning Inspectorate

Case Reference: EN010159 – One Earth Solar Farm

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached a letter from [REDACTED] Mayor of Greater Lincolnshire, addressed to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero concerning the proposed One Earth Solar Farm development.

Whilst the Mayor is not registered as an Interested Party in this examination, the proposed development includes infrastructure located within Greater Lincolnshire and raises matters relating to drinking water protection, flood risk, public safety and environmental regulation which have been brought to her attention by residents, parish councils and community representatives.

The Mayor respectfully requests that the attached correspondence be placed before the Secretary of State and, if considered appropriate, be accepted and published as part of the examination record for consideration in relation to Application Reference EN010159.

We appreciate that the acceptance and publication of any late representation is a matter for the discretion of the Secretary of State and/or the Planning Inspectorate.

Thank you & kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority

Greater Linco

██████████
Mayor of Greater Lincolnshire

County Offices, ██████████

22/06/2026

The Rt Hon ██████████ MP
Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero
Department of Energy Security and Net Zero
3-8 Whitehall Place
London
██████████

Dear Secretary of State,

Planning Act 2008: Application by One Earth Solar Farm Ltd for a Development Consent Order for the One Earth Solar Farm, Case Reference: EN010159

I am writing in my capacity as Mayor of Greater Lincolnshire regarding the proposed One Earth Solar Farm, a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project extending across Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire. The proposed development includes major infrastructure within Lincolnshire and in proximity to strategic drinking water assets located within the Greater Lincolnshire area, including North Clifton Reservoir and associated drinking water treatment infrastructure.

Regardless of wider debates surrounding large-scale solar developments, I am concerned that this proposal raises significant and unresolved questions regarding drinking water protection, flood risk, environmental safety and the adequacy of regulatory scrutiny.

These concerns have been raised repeatedly by local residents, parish councils, elected representatives and other interested parties throughout the examination process.

Drinking Water Protection

Of particular concern is the proposal to locate major energy infrastructure, including a substantial Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), within a designated Drinking Water Protected Area and in close proximity to strategic drinking water infrastructure, including North Clifton Reservoir and associated treatment facilities serving Lincoln and surrounding communities.

Given the strategic importance of these assets, I believe it is essential that there is complete confidence that all relevant contamination pathways have been fully assessed before any decision is made.

This includes consideration of:

- Battery fire incidents and associated contaminants.
- Fire-fighting water run-off.
- Flood-related pollution pathways.
- Long-term degradation of buried infrastructure and associated materials.
- Potential impacts upon protected water resources and drinking water infrastructure.

Flood Risk

I am also concerned that significant elements of the proposed development are located within Flood Zones 2 and 3.

This issue is particularly important given the recent flooding experienced by local communities and the strategic importance of the surrounding water environment.

Importantly, concerns regarding the location of infrastructure within higher-risk flood areas have not been limited to local residents and parish councils. During the examination process, the Examining Authority issued a formal Rule 17 request asking the applicant to consider whether a scheme excluding panels and associated infrastructure from Flood Zones 2 and 3 could proceed as the same Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project if the Secretary of State were to conclude that the Sequential Test had not been passed.

The fact that the Examining Authority considered it necessary to explore a potential alternative scheme excluding development from Flood Zones 2 and 3 demonstrates that flood risk is a material issue within the examination itself. It also raises an important question as to whether development within higher-risk flood areas is genuinely necessary in order to deliver the proposed scheme.

Communities therefore require confidence that flood-risk considerations, the Sequential Test, and the precautionary principle have been fully evaluated and that any final decision clearly explains why development within Flood Zones 2 and 3 remains justified, should consent ultimately be granted.

Adequacy of Scrutiny and Consultation

A further concern relates to whether all relevant expertise and statutory responsibilities have been fully engaged during the examination process.

Questions have been raised regarding:

- The apparent absence of consultation with the Drinking Water Inspectorate.
- The apparent absence of consultation with DEFRA.
- The treatment of strategic drinking water infrastructure as sensitive receptors.
- The availability of specialist Water Framework Directive expertise.
- The extent to which important technical matters may be deferred until after consent is granted.
- Delays in obtaining information from statutory bodies during the examination process.

Whilst each of these matters may have individual explanations, taken collectively they raise a broader question as to whether all relevant information has been available to support a fully informed decision.

Water Framework Directive and Precautionary Principle

I would respectfully request confirmation as to how Water Framework Directive non-deterioration duties and the precautionary principle have been applied in reaching any recommendation on this proposal.

In particular, I would welcome assurance that:

- North Clifton Reservoir and associated treatment infrastructure have been recognised as sensitive receptors.
- The Drinking Water Protected Area designation has been afforded full legal and policy weight.
- Risks arising from BESS fire events, fire-fighting water contamination and longer-term pollution pathways have been fully considered.
- Any decision will be supported by a clear and transparent evidential audit trail demonstrating how these matters have been addressed.

Cross-Agency Review

Given the strategic importance of the water environment potentially affected by this proposal, I would also encourage consideration of a cross-agency review involving the Environment Agency, the Drinking Water Inspectorate, DEFRA, relevant Fire and Rescue Services, local authorities and water industry representatives to ensure that all statutory responsibilities have been fulfilled and that no gaps remain within the assessment process.

Conclusion

The concerns raised by local communities are not simply objections to renewable energy infrastructure.

Rather, they relate to whether nationally significant energy infrastructure should be approved within a flood-prone Drinking Water Protected Area before there is complete confidence that all relevant environmental, public safety and drinking water protection issues have been fully examined.

I therefore respectfully request that these matters are given careful consideration before any final decision is reached.

Yours sincerely,



Mayor of Greater Lincolnshire