

Summary: -

My comments cover the following areas:-

1. The high volume of projects in the queue to reach net zero seriously outweighs the country need.
2. The carbon footprint and ethical build contracts and sub contracts
3. Community benefits
4. The financial viability profits and the benefits to local and national economies.
5. Failed projects

1. The UKs need for 70–80 GW of solar

Source:- Energy Networks.Org

Overall, the contracted queue continues to increase, as the first Gate 2 window is now open, with the rate of new acceptances continuing to be high, with 889GW currently in the queue; 125GW being demand and 764GW from export and storage. In June 39.4GW of new connections offers were accepted.

This month's data shows a large increase in both Storage and Demand. This increase of 25GW between May and June 25 is both a result of increase in applications before the "pause", now flowing through to acceptances, and NESO internal system errors for reporting of Demand for previous months.

The rate of new applications at Distribution continues to be high, with over 9GW being applied for month on month. The queue continues to be dominated by renewables (378GW, 42% of the queue) and Storage (276GW, 31% of the queue) far exceeding GB energy needs for net zero.

Networks are connecting customers at pace with nearly 0.4GW being connected in June.

As we implement connections reform with Gate 2 to whole queue, there remains significant capacity that networks can accommodate without delay, which will play a significant part in meeting the strategic requirements set out within Clean Power 2030.

If this is the case please can the Inspectorate teams do a strategic gap analysis review and assess which projects are the least impactful to our countryside. I am also aware the rooftop solar is growing month by month as well as big shed warehouses which will continue to support the overall target.

2. Carbon Footprint and Ethical construction

Please can the examination team make a formal request to thoroughly investigate the supply chain standards and downward supply chain contracts to ensure that panels are not being produced by coal powered stations and cheap (or even slave) labour. The communities producing these need to be able to have fair standard of living. The proposed carbon footprint to import build, maintain and de-commission will probably offset the power generated, especially as new Small Nuclear Reactors become the strategic power of choice

3. Community fund benefits.

There is no detail about the community fund and on request from the applicant it appears that they have only provided examples of what it could be with no clear and transparent explanation. It also appears to wrap some wider project costs into the fund which would not be acceptable. It is clear that other projects are offering attractive energy costs savings to local affected communities. Whilst I do not wish this insane project to be approved if it has to be it should be significantly smaller and away from houses/factories and have clear benefits for local affected people.

4. Circular economy and British investment

Very little emphasis has been given to the fact that the applicant parent company invested into Thames Water and subsequently stripped it of its assets. Financial Security Bonds or similar mechanisms, to protect the financial viability and full term project standards if sold on should be reviewed/set in place and an element of profits should be generated back into British Energy company. Shareholder /Director profits should have a limit on so we see continued reinvestment into new technologies without having to adopt a levy approach.

5. Failed projects

What are the learns from other failed projects? The Applicants Solicitor was keen to refer the Inspectorate team to other DCO applications as evidence of a standard approach but each project is different and I would like to refer the team to other failed projects;, which I'm sure you are aware of-

Thurrock Council - Rockford Investments - Massive debts and fraud investigation

White Elm Solar Farm - Stowmarket - Local concerns led to project failure

Highfield Energy park - Northumberland - rural paradise and drainage issues

California solar Plant - Switched off due to debts and rising costs

PLEASE SEE SENSE AND DO NOT RECOMMEND THIS PROJECT. OUR BEAUTIFUL COUNTRYSIDE WILL BE FOREVER RUINED