

I am following up my earlier written representation which expressed concern that the Applicant was providing insufficient information to enable an informed decision to be made since I feel the Applicant may be deferring until post decision the provision of information that would give a fuller and more negative picture of the impact of the scheme on the environment and its inhabitants. I wish to draw the the Examining Authority's attention to para 2.9 of the draft Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (APP-197) (Panel Cleaning) which really says very little. The Applicant infers that the UK's wet climate means that rain can do all or much of the cleaning but goes on to assume it will be required annually (the worse case scenario). There are of course a number of other solar farms nearby in operation or planned which do or will require cleaning and the proposed data centre may also utilise water. I would point out/ask:

- ~ Norfolk is one of the driest counties in the UK and rainfall is predicted to continue to fall in coming years. We currently have a hosepipe ban which may well last into next Spring or longer.
- ~ the sites within the scheme are surrounded largely by agricultural land which is subject to agricultural operations several times a year. When soil is disturbed it throws up dust that carries through the air particularly when bone dry.
- ~ it is understood that the water for cleaning will need to be brought in by tankers. The water supply for cleaning is not mentioned in para 2.13 of the Plan. Presumably the operator will have a rolling programme. Where will the water come from in the first instance and who will be providing it? How much will be required to clean all the panels once a year?
- ~ has the Applicant factored into its assessment of vehicle movement during the operational phase this tanker movement? Para 2.8 refers to there being a small number of daily vehicle trips, but it is not clear whether those are to the Scheme as a whole or to individual sites, although the Outline Operational Traffic Management Plan refers to an estimated average of 5 per month. They appear to be for purposes other than cleaning. How many tanker journeys will there be over a year?
- ~ it appears the tankers will deliver direct to the sites as the central water storage facility seems to be for fire fighting only. Will the tankers need to use the HGV construction routes? Will any of the intended reinstatement of construction routes and hardstanding have to be abandoned to facilitate future tanker movement?

Water is precious, limited and vital for food security. Could the Applicant please provide an assessment of the impact of its cleaning plans upon the environment and those living near the scheme.