



Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

Nick Hydleman
National Grid Electricity Distribution (East Midlands) PLC
Herald Way
East Midlands Airport
Castle Donington
Derby
DE74 2TU

Energy Infrastructure Planning
Level 3, Victoria 1
1 Victoria Street,
London
SW1H 0ET
Email: S37consents@beis.gov.uk
Website: www.gov.uk/beis

Our ref: 1706u
Your ref: PW37A CW51787 Crick Road

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Dear Mr Hydleman,

SCREENING DECISION BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE UNDER THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2017 (“THE 2017 REGULATIONS”)

NAME OF SCHEME: CRICK ROAD NEW 132KV TOWER

Screening decision for a proposed development (“the proposed development”) to:

- Install 1 x 132kV pylon with cable sealing end platforms to make underground connection within existing line in close proximity to a new solar farm development

The proposed development requires Section 37 consent under the Electricity Act 1989 and are subject to the 2017 Regulations.

The Secretary of State has considered the factors set out in Schedule 3 of the 2017 Regulations, together with the information within the supplied documentation (“the Application”) by National Grid Electricity Distribution (East Midlands) PLC (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of the West Northamptonshire Council (“the LPA”). In particular, in reaching his decision the Secretary of State notes the following factors:



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1. The proposed development does not fall within Schedule 1 (mandatory EIA).
2. The proposed development falls under Schedule 2 of the 2017 Regulations as the electricity line is to be installed above ground with a voltage of 132kV.
3. The proposed development falls within a Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zone (IRZ). However, Natural England have outlined that a consultation is not required for planning applications related to overhead lines within this IRZ and as such no consultation with Natural England has been carried out.
4. The LPA were consulted and referred to the planning application for the nearby solar farm which the proposed development is part of. Planning permission was granted by the LPA on 12 September 2022.

Taking account of the abovementioned factors and information received, the Secretary of State concludes that the proposed works are not EIA development under the 2017 Regulations and do not require a statutory EIA as they are unlikely to have significant effects on the environment due to their nature, location and size. A copy of this letter has been sent to the LPA for information.

Yours sincerely,

John McKenna
Head of Network Consents
Energy Infrastructure Planning