



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Bennath Coad
National Grid Electricity Distribution
Via email

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Our ref: 1625U
Your ref: CW51840 Niro Solar Farm

7 July 2023

Dear Ms Coad,

**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: Niro Solar Farm 33KV Connection

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

- Build two new electricity poles to support a new 33 kilovolt (KV) overhead electricity line to connect to a new solar farm.

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 (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of East Devon District Council (“the LPA”). In particular, in reaching his decision the Secretary of State notes the following factors:

1. The proposed development does not fall within Schedule 1 (mandatory EIA);



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2. The proposed development falls under Schedule 2 of the 2017 Regulations as the electricity line is to be installed above ground in a sensitive area;
3. The proposed development falls within an Impact Risk Zone for a Site of Special Scientific Interest ("the SSSI"). Natural England were consulted on the proposed development and confirmed to the applicant that they have no comment to make.

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,

Energy Infrastructure Planning