

Beverley Rodbard-Hedderwick,
Low Carbon
Oxygen House,
Grenadier Road,
Exeter Business Park,
Exeter,
EX1 3LH

4th. October 2021

Dear Beverley,

Re: Proposed Cutlers Green Solar Farm

I am writing on behalf of the Cutlers Green Residents Group and in particular, the residents living immediately next to the proposed solar farm development. We have significant concerns about the how this project could seriously affect our safety and quality of life.

There are a number of issues that alarm us:

1. The close proximity of the site boundary to neighbouring residents, notably Richmonds in the Wood, Waterhall Farm, and The Mill House and the immediate residents of Cutlers Green and Debden Green. Nearly all other solar farms are situated more remotely outside residential areas.
2. There are battery storage units on site. Large scale lithium ion battery storage is inherently unsafe. Short circuits and malfunction can cause the batteries to burst into flames. Battery fires can be almost impossible to extinguish and sometimes emit poisonous hydrogen fluoride gas.
3. The site is traversed by a shallow high pressure fuel oil pipeline.
 - a. Construction: Although subject to stringent safety conditions under normal operation, the pipeline will be in the middle of a major construction site and will be subject to disturbance from construction traffic, pile driving and unforeseen events.
 - b. Long Term Operations, once work is completed, constant vibration from the industrial inverters and solar plant will present an ongoing risk in addition to the close proximity to high voltage cables impacting the cathodic protection for the ageing pipeline
4. The combined effect of explosive risk from the solar battery storage and fires together with a leak from the adjacent pipeline would precipitate a major disaster likened to Grenfell Tower of the explosive magnitude experienced in Beirut.
5. At the other end of the scale but also most concerning is the prospect of noise and vibration from the inverters. We would be unusually close to these units and we need to reassured that we will not experience any disturbance when the site is in operation. There are many cases of existing industrial solar farms having a devastating effect on local residents when it comes to noise and vibration.

No doubt all these points have already been carefully looked into by Pegasus, and I hope you are satisfied that the necessary independent impact assessments provide the evidence that there are no safety concerns. As residents, however, we need to fully understand the risks to feel completely secure in our homes.

The planning application is very short on technical information, and inclusive impact assessments, and I am hoping you can flesh out some basic details so that we can discuss them with our colleagues and reach a full understanding of the issues involved. Please will you let us know the following information.

- 1. What method and approach has been taken regarding Risk Assessment and Disaster Management? 'Please can you share any 'checklist analysis', 'what-if analysis', 'fault tree analysis' and / or 'Hazard and Operability studies (HAZOP)'?**
- 2. What risks have been identified? How would these risks be managed and reduced?**
- 3. What is the explosive threat risk assessment uniquely presented by the high pressure fuel pipeline?**
- 4. Are discussions in progress with Essex Fire Service? Will you let us know the outcome of these discussions regarding the unusual fire risk and how equipped and prepared they are to tackle a battery fire emergency?**
- 5. Is there an emergency evacuation plan bearing in mind the risk of possible explosion and poisonous gas transmission?**
- 6. Specifically, what is the emergency services and fire strategy? What protection and gas detection facilities would be in place?**
- 7. What is the manufacturers stated maximum noise level from the inverters?**
- 8. What is the outcome of the noise impact assessment?**
- 9. During which hours of the day or night will the batteries and inverters be in operation?**
- 10. Do you intend to use lithium ion batteries and what is their storage capacity?**

Thank you for your help and I look forward to your early response.

Kind regards,

Cutlers Green Residents Group

c/o Maureen White
Waterhall Farm
Cutlers Green
Thaxted
CM6 2QE