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Dafydd Williams
RPS
via email

Eich Cyf / Your Ref: 171221 L JPW0888 GG

Ein Cyf / Our Ref: 3154384

Dyddiad / Date: 02 February 2018

Dear Mr Williams,

Town and Country Planning Act 1990
The Developments of National Significance (Procedure) (Wales) Order 2016
Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales)
Regulations 2017

DNS Application

Site Address: Wauntysswg Farm, Abertysswg, Rhymney, Tredegar NP22 5BQ

Proposed Development: Solar Park, Access and Ancillary Development

I refer to your request, made pursuant to regulation 31(1) of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017 ("the Regulations") for the Welsh Ministers to make a screening direction as to whether or not the development proposed is "EIA development" within the meaning of the Regulations.

The Planning Inspectorate is authorised by the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs to provide that screening direction.

The project, as described above, falls within the description at paragraph 3(a) in column 1 of the table in Schedule 2 to the Regulations and exceeds the applicable threshold in column 2 of that table.

Having taken into account the information provided by the applicant, the selection criteria in Schedule 3 to the Regulations and the advice in Welsh Office Circular 11/99: Environmental Impact Assessment on establishing whether EIA is required, I conclude that:

The development will lead to temporary loss of 58ha of Grade 5 agricultural land for a period of 30 years. The main effects arising from the development is likely to be landscape and visual effects. The site is within 'Mynydd Bedwelty, Rhymney Hill and Sirhowy Sides Special Landscape Area', and near to a Visually Important Local Landscape designated in the Caerphilly LDP. Any impact on these designations may be large in magnitude, but the spatial extent of any impact will be small, and any impact will be temporary and reversible. Considering the characteristics of the potential effect, I do not consider that it is likely to be

significant in EIA terms. However, landscape and visual effects are likely to be an important consideration for the decision maker, and a comprehensive Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment is recommended. No other effects are likely to be significant. An EIA is therefore not required.

Therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by Regulation 31 of the Regulations and the authority referred to above, the Welsh Ministers hereby direct that the development subject of this appeal **is not EIA development** within the meaning of the Regulations.

You should bear in mind that my opinion on the likelihood of the development having significant environmental effects is reached only for the purposes of this direction.

Yours sincerely

Ifan Gwilym

Ifan Gwilym
Planning Officer

The Planning & Environment Team
The Planning Inspectorate