
From:
Sent: 29 May 2022 13:48
To:
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Application Reference No. : SMD/2022/0047 Site Address: Land Adjacent Cellarhead Substation Rownall Road
Wetley Rocks Staffordshire Comments by: Ian Podmore

From:
Rownall Ridge
Rownall Road
Rownall
Wetley Rocks
Staffs
ST9 0BT

Submission: Objection

Comments: This is now the 3rd a MAJOR sized Battery storage application proposed to annex the existing National Grid transformer station at Rownall!

Each separate running application it appears is made in complete isolation and disregard for the other individual applications submitted. Consequently there results a total lack of any consideration for the cumulative impact of these 3 applications to the local community and environment should any or all of these applications be approved.

All of the risks, of explosion, fire, noise, security, and access etc could potentially now be multiplied if all present separate applications are approved! There surely is now a need to identify the potential maximal cumulative impacts?

My specific objection to this application is much mirrored by my previous objections already submitted for SMD/2021/0695 and SMD/2021/0853. In particular relating to this specific application SMD/2022/0047 I make the following comment.

LOCATION Para 2.2.1 of the application Plan

Again the map used is long out of date, my home Rownall Ridge occupies the site of the former Rownall Hall which was demolished in the 1960s. Again my home would be the nearest dwelling to this proposed site and which is not even mentioned in the application possibly because it is not a listed property but nonetheless highly significant in terms of damaging impact!

ACCESS

The Highways Authority's previous comments are most relevant in regard to the dangerous narrow section of Rownall Road between Mill Lane and Rownall Hall Farm which is largely single track to larger vehicles and features numerous blind bends and blind entrances which over the years have been the cause of many accidents. It is noted that a separate access road is proposed leading from the private national Grid access road, this should be the only vehicle access and no access from the outset should be given down the existing private farm track on the exit of the blind bend which runs opposite to the entrance drives of Rownall Ridge and Rownall Stables!

This application conveniently mentions that only the 'majority' of construction traffic will access via the proposed newly constructed road, this must not be accepted and a condition should be imposed that 100% of all accessing. Construction and maintenance traffic must use a newly constructed access road from the outset! Already, I have

observed that a number of the surveyors vehicles preparing this application have recently already narrowly avoided collisions with the fast moving huge tractors now regularly using this dangerous section of Rownall Road.

NOISE

The noise of more humming transformers, inverters, air conditioning coolers, and the very loud discharge bangs of static electricity will presumably proportionately increase with each additional new storage facility. What if anything has been done to calculate the overall noise impact if plural applications are approved? Additionally, I would suggest that construction traffic is limited to Monday to Friday between the hours of 10am and 4pm.

EXPLOSION RISK

It has already been identified in some applications that explosion is a serious risk. The outbreak of any explosion on one compound is of course likely to spread to adjacent/adjoining compounds which form the subject of the other 2 applications and the size and area of any likely destruction and devastation would be far greater if plural applications are approved!

FIRE

Accompanying any explosion would result in an enormous fireball greater in size and force if plural applications are approved carrying East in the prevailing Westerlies right through the screening into my Coppice and into my home. The scale and area of any devastation could in all likelihood be much further and far reaching and besides probably taking out the whole of Rownall but could possibly include a part of as well Rocks and Werrington.

LANDSCAPING AND SCREENING

Some serious thought of effective screening needs to be considered from the outset! It wouldn't be acceptable to simply plant trees and vegetation which would take 40 years to grow to effectively screen what is likely to be a very large visible concrete walled eyesore of enormous height!

SOLAR PANEL FARM DEVELOPMENTS

It should be anticipated that approval of any of these battery storage facilities will likely prompt and encourage further applications of huge Solar Panel farms on the residual huge acreage previously used very successfully for growing 'winter wheat' in the same ownership of the land occupying the battery storage facilities!

In fact local residents have already received a 'pre application' circular from

BayWa r.e. communicating their intention to submit a detailed application to SMDC for a giant solar farm at Rownall on 57 hectares of adjoining land this summer?

Now is the time surely for some 'joined up thinking' and transparency of what is envisaged overall?! The National Grid and the Local Authority must have a role, a responsibility and morale obligation to inform and consult with the public and more over the local residents about what in its entirety is being considered, and what the overall development energy strategy is for this site??? As much as the country needs 'green energy' now, such individual applications should not be decided upon without full disclosure of the eventual plan. It should be remembered after all, that this is Green Belt protected land in an area already designated 'of outstanding natural beauty' on which this large acreage has for many years been most successfully used for growing winter wheat which might in the light of the Ukraine crisis be now of greater importance?!

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