

Received by email – from Solar Plus Services Ltd

Dear Gareth Evans

I am writing this email to voice my opinion that any changes to the existing standards which increase safety are welcome, however, asking for installation companies to 'ask permission' from DNO's to connect up PV systems will not work and will help further deepen the recession we are currently experiencing. Already demand has dropped enormously due to the drop in FIT payments and many companies have gone, or are going bust and laying off thousands of staff, by asking PV installers to inform the local DNO and ask permission to connect, before commencing, will be the final nail in the PV sector coffin.

A recent article on the subject summed up my feelings brilliantly:

DNOs are going to be deluged with extra applications, and most are already dealing with large backlogs of G59 and G83 stage 2 applications, without enough engineers to properly assess these applications in a timely manner. Put simply, this proposal will jam up the application process for all new grid connections for all SSEG's, as there is no way the DNO's can cope with this level of extra workload.

A number of DNO's take between weeks and months to turn applications around at the moment, imagine how that will increase by introducing an extra 1000 applications per week, introducing this idea to the PV sector would create a time void in which new installations couldn't be fit before permission was granted. This would be enough time for those companies already struggling to cope with the lack of demand to collapse, as well as making buying a PV system very unappealing to the customer who would have to wait months to find out whether permission would be granted let alone see a return on their investment.

This recommendation should be binned, it is simply a get out clause for the DNO who cannot keep their network up to the required standards, as is seen by the following quote;

Failure to comply with this requirement may lead to the disconnection of the Customers Installation under ESQCR (26) or failure of the SSEG to operate as intended

You are simply giving DNO's a get out of jail free card when their systems aren't able to handle the power being fed into the grid. Rather than modernising the grid, they will point to this clause and tell customers it was their own fault or that of the installer for not applying and their system, though sub standard, is not responsible.

The last issue with this change is that other installers and ourselves would have to notify the DNO of any new installations in areas where we already have systems, when another company who hadn't installed any systems in the same area could come in and perform the same installation without any notification procedure. This would mean that existing companies would struggle to compete with cowboys and smaller 'hit and run' installers which would surface, who would set up just to do a few installs in a wide area, do a poor job, cut corners and then run with the profit before the consequences catch up with them, then starting up under another name and doing the same thing again.

This change will kill off the PV sector.

Please do not bring out this change

Regards

Trebor Evans

Solar Plus Services Ltd