

A.2 APPENDIX

27th July 2023

Email:

Catrin.Owen@nationalgrid.com

contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com

Dear Catrin,

Proposed application by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) for a Development Consent Order for the proposed Norwich to Tilbury project, to reinforce the high voltage power network in East Anglia

Please see any technical response prepared by Essex County Council on behalf of local authorities in Essex affected by the Norwich to Tilbury proposals.

The Council objects in the strongest of terms to the proposed approach. A significant number of residents in Ardleigh, Lawford and Little Bromley areas have again, contacted the Council to express their significant concerns regarding the impacts on the local communities, the landscape and the wider environment.

Tendring District Council along with all other authorities in Essex and many in Suffolk and Norfolk has previously made representations to National Grid raising strong objections to the Norwich to Tilbury proposal. It is the clear preference of this Council, along with many others in the region, that the Norwich to Tilbury powerline should have an offshore approach.

We acknowledge the proposed changes in this second round of non-statutory consultation, namely the undergrounding of cables all the way to the substation in Lawford, East Anglian Connection Node (EACN). Despite this alteration there would still be a significant impact to our residents in Ardleigh,

The Council recognises that to reach the Government's target of net zero emissions by 2050, the way we generate, deliver use energy has to change. The UK is already transitioning to clean, renewable energy generation which will provide cheaper and more secure energy. The Council also is keen to promotes the provision of jobs in the construction, maintenance and servicing of the turbines and the potential for Harwich to play an important role in supporting that industry.

In representing it's local communities TDC firmly believe that much greater consideration should be given to routing the powerlines around the coast in the sea bed. This would reduce the need for the significant impacts on communities, the environment, and the landscape. Whilst the Offshore Coordination Support Scheme (OCSS) is in the process of grant funding schemes to explore greater offshore grid coordination, TDC feels it would be prudent to see what the extent of these findings is before pursuing onshore options.

The Council seriously questions whether the significant carbon footprint of the development as proposed, particularly during the construction phase, would be offset by the benefits of the renewable energy it is being built to transport. It would be useful to see understand what the

embodied carbon emissions are from the project as a whole. Related to this are concerns about the inefficiency of pylon technology losing energy along the lines and also in terms of their resilience to heat and other extreme weather events associated with climate change. The Council strongly questions whether or not more modern and efficient technologies have been properly considered.

The considerable community anxiety that is being caused by the prospect of large scale intrusive physical onshore infrastructure is a significant concern for the Council. There is scant support being offered to the communities and individual residents by National Grid, this must be addressed as a matter of urgency.

TDC welcome the undergrounding of cables from the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) to the EACN. This fails to address the concerns of the residents of Ardleigh (shared by TDC) about large scale intrusive physical infrastructure running past their community. The Council would like to see the section from the EACN onward toward Colchester also put underground.

With regards to the relatively new addition of a potential interconnector at EACN the Council needs to significantly more information regarding this. Concerns have already been raised about the size and land take required for the EACN, the implications of an Interconnector at this site have not been fully publicised. As such this will require additional consultation when further information is available.

There is still a great deal of uncertainty within the farming community about how the proposals will affect their livelihoods. The Council call again for increased engagement with local landowners and farmers regarding the practical implications of the proposal and subsequently what compensation will be offered.

If you require further information on any of the matters raised, please contact the case officer, their details are set out below.

Yours Sincerely



Gary Guiver

Director of Planning

Tendring District Council.

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Policy Team

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