



Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP
Minister for Business, Energy and Clean
Growth

cc Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey MP

Your ref: OTNR 15/07/20

Date: 5 August 2020

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Dear Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP,

We appreciate the time you have taken previously to meet with us and Rt Hon Therese Coffey MP on 16 October 2019 and 5 February 2020 and your engagement since. We welcome the publication of the Terms of Reference for the Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR) on 15 July 2020, and the contribution our dialogue has had in increasing understanding of the challenges faced in East Suffolk in relation to energy infrastructure helping to lead to this review.

We recognise the very significant role Suffolk has to play in delivering the UK's Net Zero target, due to its geographical positioning and other advantages, and to ensure this contributes to post Covid-19 economic recovery both locally and nationally. Your review is an important opportunity to ensure this is not at the expense of the communities and environment of Suffolk.

Our reading of the Terms of Reference is that with the exception of East Anglia Three, all the other planned projects in Suffolk¹, including East Anglia One North and East Anglia Two, are within scope of the OTNR Medium Term Workstream as they are due to connect between 2025 and 2030. We understand the Medium Term Workstream will not only be considering the opportunities available to increase the level of coordination in relation to the provision of energy infrastructure, but also considering measures which could be utilised to incentivise developers to engage with this work, thereby addressing some of the barriers. We see incentivising developers to engage as fundamental to its success. We expect BEIS to take a strong lead on this as it is crucial that engagement with this review is not dependent on individual developers' appetite.

As you will be aware the East Anglia One North and Two Development Consent Order (DCO) applications have been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate with Part 1 of the Preliminary Meeting scheduled for 16 September 2020. If consented, the Order Limits, Rochdale envelopes and connections for the projects will effectively be fixed. Given this, we would like to understand how BEIS intend to manage the interaction

between the examination of these projects and the review, and in particular whether the timing of the examination will and should be affected by the OTNR? Understanding this is, we know, of vital importance to the affected local communities who will also welcome the review. Given the potential implications of the review, the Councils will be seeking legal advice on this issue.

Your review is a real opportunity to significantly reduce impacts on our communities and environment through consolidation and coordination across all the in-scope projects. We would wish to see a comprehensive solution encompassing both the SPR East Anglia One North and Two projects and the proposed Round 3 extensions. We consider that a comprehensive solution incorporating a High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) offshore grid connecting to one offshore location and perhaps incorporating an interconnector project, would be possible, although ambitious. We recognise there would be significant regulatory and commercial obstacles to be overcome to achieve this, but such a project would be an effective pathfinder to support the development of an enduring regime. It appears that such a pathfinder project could only be developed by a third party Offshore Transmission Operator (OFTO), and that the developer-build OFTO model is a significant obstacle to integration of offshore connections. We recognise that there are less ambitious options for the Medium Term Workstream which could consolidate existing projects, but we would urge both the government and developers to use the OTNR to test an ambitious model for the offshore connections enduring regime.

We are grateful to your officials for their continuing engagement with us on both the OTNR and the wider issues relating to the development of offshore wind and interconnectors in Suffolk.

We look forward to continuing to work with you on these matters to enable Suffolk to support effective progress towards Net Zero for the UK, whilst ensuring this is not to the detriment of our communities and environment.

Yours sincerely



Richard Rout
Cabinet Member for Environment & Public
Protection
Suffolk County Council



Craig Rivett
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economic
Development
East Suffolk Council

¹ Nautilus and Eurolink Interconnectors promoted by National Grid Ventures,
Round 3 Extensions - Galloper Offshore Windfarm Extension promoted by Innogy, Greater Gabbard Offshore
Windfarm Extension promoted by SSE
SCD1 HVDC Link promoted by National Grid Electricity Transmission.