



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

The Rt Hon Claire Perry MP  
Minister of State for Energy and Clean Growth

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Dear Councillors,

Thank you so much for your letter dated 11 May 2018, which was addressed to Greg Clark MP at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and James Brokenshire MP at the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government. In your letter you raised concerns surrounding the cumulative impacts of nationally significant energy development on the Suffolk Coast. I am responding, as planning matters fall within my Ministerial portfolio, and I hope you will appreciate that I am only able to comment on the aspects of your correspondence which pertain to BEIS policy areas.

I was hoping to obtain further clarification on one of the points you raised. Your letter stated, "We ask that the Government ensures that the National Grid Ventures schemes are treated as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects in this instance". I would be very grateful if you could confirm whether this was intended to constitute a qualifying request to the Secretary of State for BEIS. Specifically, a request to direct the projects you referred to into the nationally significant infrastructure planning regime under Section 35 of the Planning Act 2008. If this was the intention, I would also be grateful if you could provide any further information in support of the request.

Under the Section 35 process, the Secretary of State must be satisfied that any request received for Direction meets the criteria of a "qualifying request". He must also be satisfied that the proposed development should specifically be treated as a development for which consent is required. In considering such a request, the Secretary of State may choose to consult other interested parties.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government for information and those copied in on your correspondence.

Thank you again for taking the time to write to me on this matter, and I look forward to receiving clarification from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

**THE RT HON CLAIRE PERRY MP**  
Minister of State