

Mr James Cartlidge MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

30 September 2022

Dear James,

RE: EAST ANGLIA Green Energy Enablement Project (EAG) – SURVEY OF AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

Thank you for your recent letter, dated 2 September 2022, concerning the survey which you initiated of constituencies in Suffolk, Norfolk and Essex with regards to our phase one consultation on early outline proposals for EAG. I am grateful for your letter and the opportunity to provide further clarification on the consideration of offshore options.

We understand that people may feel uncertain about what the project will mean for them, and we do of course recognise the strength of feeling locally in response to the consultation. Particularly in relation to the onshore search corridor – the graduated swathe on the map we have shared previously – within which a final detailed route could go. As well as having consulted at this stage on the route refinement process, the next stage would be to consult on a more detailed route, environmental information, and mitigation measures. These are requirements regulated by the Planning Act 2008 and associated guidance. Compliance with this will be tested during the Examination stage before the Secretary of State makes an eventual decision.

As noted in your letter, under the terms of our licence we are required to provide an efficient, economic, and reliable transmission system for consumers. This includes the delivery of new nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIPs) based on the consideration of cost, technical, environmental, and socio-economic factors, to meet the legislative and policy framework and deliver what is needed. It is not based on National Grid holding a preference for any particular connection type, route or technology.


Information was provided in the consultation on the offshore option considerations and we have always been happy to discuss why this option was not taken forward,

We confirm that for EAG we did not consult on offshore options, and we have been consistent on this point, both throughout the consultation and since it closed. I apologise if this has been misunderstood. It would have been disingenuous for us to present an option to the public for consultation, knowing this did not comply with the framework requirements.

In recognition of the feedback received from yourself and other parliamentarians, members of the local community, and other stakeholders, following the consultation we have agreed to set out the detail on the offshore option considered. We understand fully the importance of this in demonstrating that a robust process has been followed in line with our obligations under current regulations and to give assurance, the option taken forward into detailed design and for further

consultation, best meets the strategic needs case. We will provide more information in the coming weeks. We are also engaging with government around this, in the context of our obligations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Pettigrew." The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

John Pettigrew
Chief Executive