

James Cartlidge MP  
Member of Parliament for South Suffolk  
By email to: [james.cartlidge.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:james.cartlidge.mp@parliament.uk)

30<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Dear James

**Re East Anglia Green Energy Enablement Project (EAG) – Request for Clarification**

Thank you for your letter of the 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022 where you document follow up questions to our letter dated 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022. I have outlined our response to these questions below.

**Project consultation:**

To support the consultation which ran from the 21<sup>st</sup> April to 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022 information was provided and published on:

- how the project had been developed
- the options that had been considered in developing the project,
- what was taken into account in making decisions on the project (including our statutory duties under the Electricity Act 1989, planning policy and relevant guidance)
- detail on the preferred option

This information was available for stakeholders to review and make comment on as they wished.

A feedback form was prepared to help people respond to the consultation. From experience we find a form useful as it provides a format to enable people to respond to the information we have published and enables us to seek answers to the specific themes where we are looking for feedback to develop our proposals. The feedback form was designed as a guide with a mix of closed questions and open text boxes to allow people to provide a response to the information in the consultation and on our preferred option. People were free to respond in any way on any aspect of the work we have done including the options identified and the work done to identify an emerging preferred option. We did not ask any specific questions on an offshore option in the feedback form which focused on seeking feedback to inform the development of the emerging preferred option through the next stage.

We received 3,400 responses to the consultation, most of which made reference to an offshore option. We will have regard to all consultation responses received and will publish details of the feedback received and our response to it in a Feedback Report which will be published at the next stage of consultation on the project.

The Government has designated National Policy Statements and has put in place statutory duties which together must inform our optioneering and design work alongside consultation feedback.

As we have stated before, the offshore option does not align with these policies and duties. Government guidance is also clear, noting that consultation should inform people of the opportunity they have to influence the proposals. It would have been wrong to suggest that National Grid's project consultation could change Government policy and statutory duties.

As you are aware this project will be a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project and will require a Development Consent Order under the Planning Act 2008. Consultation on the project has been in accordance with the requirements of the Act and guidance published by the Planning Inspectorate.

We confirm that information on the offshore option was available at the time decisions were made on the project and that this information was presented as part of the consultation. Following feedback, we recognised that a different presentation of this information may aid peoples understanding and therefore provided this to Sir Bernard Jenkin.

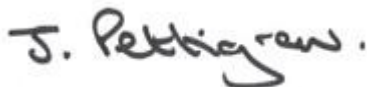
At the time the decision was made we had the relevant costs available.

We are clear that at the meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> July we stated that the consultation documents highlighted that offshore options had been considered. No-one at the meeting on the 18th stipulated that a specific offshore option had been consulted on.

As you are aware this project will be a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project and will require a Development Consent Order under the Planning Act 2008. Consultation on the project has been in accordance with the requirements of the Act and guidance published by PINS.

National Grid is committed to supporting the Government's targets for 2030 in achieving zero carbon generation and ensuring that this gets to where it needs to be and this project plays a vital part of this in reinforcing the network in East Anglia and connecting new generation to the national transmission network.

Yours sincerely



John Pettigrew  
Chief Executive