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FAO Mr Smith (Lead Panel Member for the Examining Authority)

c/o Mr Bartkowiak (Case Manager)
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3 July 2023

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Dear Mr Smith

## **A122 Lower Thames Crossing (Reference Number TR010032)**

## Applicant's second notification to submit a request for proposed change to the application for development consent

- 1.1.1 The Applicant is writing to advise the Examining Authority that it has identified two further proposed changes that it is intending to make to the application for development consent (the Application) in respect of the A122 Lower Thames Crossing (the Project).
- 1.1.2 Since the submission of the Application, the Applicant has continued to engage with stakeholders with a view to addressing their comments and agreeing common ground, while also continuing with detailed Project development. The Applicant has previously notified the Examining Authority of three minor changes [Additional Submissions AS-082 and AS-083], and through this ongoing engagement, has now identified seven additional minor modifications to the Application, which the Applicant considers would enhance the Project and respond to feedback from landowners and Statutory Undertakers.
- 1.1.3 The Applicant has undertaken a review of the modifications that it intends to make to the Application. In doing this review, the Applicant has considered the information provided in the Planning Inspectorate's (2023) Advice Note Sixteen: Requests to change applications after they have been accepted for examination (version 3) ('Advice Note Sixteen'). For each modification the Applicant has considered:
  - a. Whether the modification would result in a change to the proposals that would require a formal request to change the Application in accordance with Advice Note Sixteen. Modifications that met this criterion are referred to as 'proposed changes' in this document and are subject to the Examining Authority's decision to accept the change.

- b. Whether these 'proposed changes' would be so substantial as to constitute a materially different project, in accordance with paragraph 2.1 of Advice Note Sixteen. The Applicant considers that none of the identified changes, either individually or collectively, meet this criterion.
- c. Where a modification (having regard to paragraph 2.4 of Advice Note 16) is not considered to require a formal request to change the Application, these are referred to as 'planned amendments' in this document. Modifications that meet this criterion are subject to the Examining Authority's decision to accept any relevant additional or updated documents.
- 1.1.4 Through this review, as set out in the attached Second Notification of Proposed Changes to the Planning Inspectorate' [Document Reference 10.2], the Applicant has determined that of the seven proposed modifications two constitute proposed changes, and five constitute proposed amendments.
- 1.1.5 The two proposed changes are a result of ongoing discussions with Statutory Undertakers and affect existing land plot designations. The changes relate to:
  - a. EC01 a request from the network utility supplier to realign Works No. G5 (shown on Sheet 28, Works Plans Volume C: Utilities [Additional Submission AS-030]) east of Brentwood Road to reflect wider network operational changes and support the safe and timely delivery of utilities works
  - EC02 a need for access off Fen Lane, Ockendon for Statutory Undertakers to facilitate future maintenance and operational works on utilities works constructed for the Project
- 1.1.6 In addition to the two proposed changes, there are also five planned amendments that are a result of ongoing discussions with stakeholders.
- 1.1.7 The Applicant has considered Advice Note Sixteen and seeks to present its request for these proposed changes having regard to the principles and processes set out in Advice Note Sixteen.
- 1.1.8 This letter and the enclosed Second Notification of Proposed Changes to the Planning Inspectorate constitutes Step 1 of Figure 1 of Advice Note Sixteen, in which the Applicant informs the Examining Authority in writing of its intention to request a change to the accepted application.
- 1.1.9 The Applicant considers that the changes to the Project, both individually and cumulatively, do not constitute material changes to the Project which was the subject of the application for development consent in October 2022 and can therefore be progressed under the non-material change process shown in Figure 2 of Advice Note Sixteen.
- 1.1.10 The Applicant intends to carry out a targeted non-statutory landowner and Persons with an Interest in Land (PILS) consultation for the two proposed changes EC01 and EC02 prior to making the formal change request, having regard to the principles and process set out in Advice Note 16.

- 1.1.11 The consultation is proposed to take place in July and August 2023 and run for a minimum of 28 days. The consultation is proposed as non-statutory without the publication of notices. This is due to the localised and minor nature of the proposed changes. Therefore, the Applicant proposes to undertake targeted consultation, writing to those landowners, persons with an interest in land and Statutory Authorities directly affected by the proposed changes.
- 1.1.12 The views of the Examining Authority are sought on the proposed landowner consultation exercise.
- 1.1.13 Following the conclusion of the landowner consultation exercise, it is the Applicant's intention to submit a request asking the Examining Authority to examine the changed Application, which will include a summary of the responses received and how the Project has considered them. The Applicant is intending to make this submission on or around Deadline 4 (19 September 2023).
- 1.1.14 The Applicant understands that once the proposed changes have been submitted, the Examining Authority will need to make a Procedural Decision whether or not to accept the proposed changes into the Examination.
- 1.1.15 For the five planned amendments, which have arisen from further engagement with landowners, the parties with an interest in the relevant land will be notified of the proposed changes for completeness.
- 1.1.16 For more information, please refer to the 'Second Notification of Proposed Changes to the Planning Inspectorate' [Document Reference 10.2] enclosed with this submission.
- 1.1.17 I should be grateful if you could confirm acknowledgment of receipt of this letter. If you have any questions on any of the matters outlined above, please contact me.

## 2 Other matters

2.1.1 The Applicant has no other matters to raise at this time.

Yours sincerely

Dr Tim Wright

Head of Consents – Lower Thames Crossing