

From: [REDACTED]
To: [East Anglia ONE North; East Anglia Two](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Response to Action Point 2 - Open Floor Hearings 5 held virtually on Friday 6 November 2020: Deadline 2 for 17 November EA1N and EA2
Date: 17 November 2020 15:24:51
Attachments: [Response to Action Point 2 - Open Floor Hearings 5 held virtually on Friday 6 November 2020 by Fiona Gilmore.pdf](#)

PINS Ref: EA1N and EA2 - RR-356

My Ref: ID Nos EA1N 20024391 and EA2 20024393

Re: East Anglia One North and East Anglia Two

Dear Examining Authority

Further to your request in Action Point 2, Open Floor Hearings 5 held virtually on Friday 6 November 2020, I am sending you the relevant information relating to the Spectator Energy Summit and to evidence provided by the North Sea wind energy specialist engineers to the question of merging EA1N and EA2 into a more efficient integrated delivery system to a brownfield site.

Kind regards

Fiona Gilmore

Sent from my iPad

Response to Action Point 2 - Open Floor Hearings 5 held virtually on Friday 6 November 2020 by Fiona Gilmore

EA1N Reference 20024391 RR356

EA2 Reference 20024393 RR356

These are answers to the questions raised by ExA further to the OFH on 6 November morning session where the household Gary Waple and Fiona Gilmore had a seven-minute slot.

Question One

What was the relevant summit? I have taken the opportunity to describe the Summit in some detail given that it was focused on Energy.

1. 1. The Summit in question was called the Spectator Energy Summit and it was held virtually on 2 November 2020, sponsored by National Grid and chaired by Fraser Nelson, Editor of the Spectator. Nicola Shaw, CEO of NG ESO gave an introductory speech and referenced National Grid as the backbone of the British energy sector.

1.2. Graeme Cooper, National Grid East Coast Director, gave a key notes speech. Cooper stated that:” offshore coordination is going to take some time. And not in time for 2028”. This time reference was not specifically related to any particular project and Cooper did not refer to SPR EAN1 or EA2 at any stage. Cooper mentioned this point in passing.

1.3. Cooper raised the question of “perfection” versus “good”. I do not think he was raising a philosophical discussion inspired by Confucius or Aristotle and their views about perfection being the enemy of good. We do not believe that Cooper could have been referring to the plans for Friston because if National Grid had at any point in the consultation process undertaken by SPR sought to understand the context and the local opinion, it would have been clear to National Grid that the debate is not about “perfection” versus “good”, but between “good” and “very bad, ill-conceived plans” for a vast infrastructure complex proposed in the wrong place.

1.4. Robert Watson-Watt, who developed early warning radar in Britain to counter the rapid growth of the Luftwaffe, propounded a “cult of the imperfect”, which he stated as “Give them the third best to go on with; the second best comes too late, the best never comes”.

We agree with Robert Watson-Watt. We need to step change rapidly to new renewable energy integrated solutions and new energy conservation techniques. If the solutions are imperfect, they are still better than using oil and coal. However, that debate about the “imperfect” could also be related to the choice of site for the largest complex in Europe.

1.5. The best solution would be an offshore modular grid with floating substation platforms and offshore inter-connectors at sea with a single MegaHub on a BROWNFIELD site nearer the Thames Estuary and London where most of the power is needed. The second best solution is integrated offshore infrastructure with a number of modular offshore grids using a single MegaHub on a BROWNFIELD site nearer the Thames estuary. The third best solution is the use of existing BROWNFIELD sites including Bradwell and Bramford and a SPR integrated four wind farm pooling of energy from EA1, EAN1, EA2, EA3 into one or two corridors connecting to the Grid at Bramford, in time for 2028. Bramford is a brownfield site, close to Ipswich, bearing no similarity to Friston, which is situated in unspoilt countryside and close to AONB and SSSI as well as Aldeburgh and Thorpeness, places dependent on rural tourism activities.

1.6. This is an imperfect solution because it will not be fully integrated offshore, but the best within the time constraints and given the fact that the integrated solution will not be ready before 2030. The solution could of course have been presented in this positive step change mode, from the outset, saving all manner of upset, but regrettably, Ofgem, the Government and National Grid were “dithering” and not collectively up to speed on advanced HVDC solutions.

1.7. We invite National Grid’s Nicola Shaw and Graeme Cooper to visit this region on accompanied tours of the threatened sites accompanied by GreenPeace John Sauven. It would be helpful for the ExA to invite this trio to make the time, given the huge significance of this unprecedented MegaHub plan. We wish to remind readers that there is nothing comparable in the UK so close to a medieval unspoilt village, and an area reliant on a particular kind of Nature tourism.

1.8. Nicola Shaw has also written in a Letter to the Times on 3 November 2020 that Ofgem and Government needed to change the legislation to allow the pooling of energy and enable integrated solutions. We think it is disingenuous on National Grid’s part to imply that they are not implicated in some way with this tardiness to step change. If National Grid had pushed harder for integrated solutions, we are sure that changes would have been made sooner. Was National Grid incentivised to move away from point to point connections? If National Grid ESO had been separated from the rest of National Grid some years ago, perhaps the MasterPlan for wind energy infrastructure would have been available sooner.

1.9. This Summit was mainly an opportunity for National Grid to present its credentials. There was very little real debate. No local communities were invited to speak and the questions appeared to be pre-planned. They were rather basic and open ended. For example, “What about hydrogen?” “What about tidal energy?”

1.10. The most challenging comment came from Greenpeace Director John Sauven, who stated: “Grid connections are very expensive. We need fewer connections. There’s a failure by Ofgem and Government not to provide infrastructure sooner”. Yes, we agree with John Sauven. East Anglia Countryside should not be penalised for their collective tardiness (and we include National Grid in this triumvirate).

Question Two

The engineering opinion on potential new offshore connection options.

2.1. SEAS campaigners have interviewed numerous engineers during the last year to discover what options are realistic given the time constraints. Most engineers have been happy to have a phone conversation, and have been very helpful in discussions, but have declined the formal request for paid consultancy help due to their “Conflict of interest given their work for National Grid”. This so-called conflict of interest has baffled us. We are hardly competitors to National Grid. We represent a campaign group called SEAS who have gleaned insights and collected sufficient information from these short discussions to confirm that there are better, alternative solutions available by 2028.

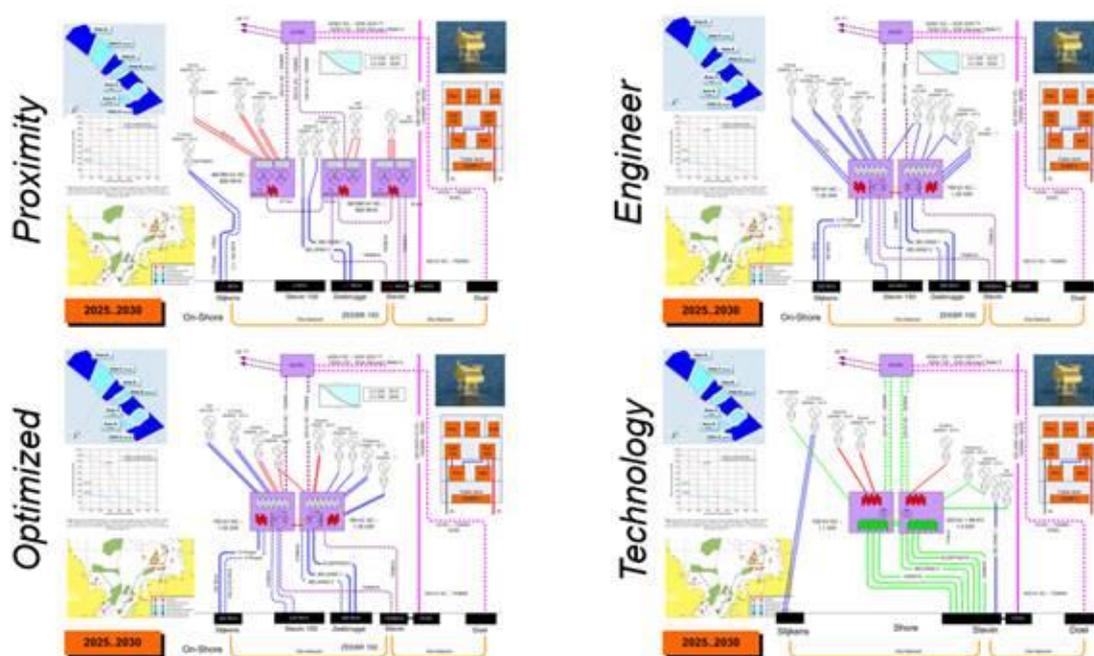
Thanks to new advanced HVDC technology, we suggest that the options available should be reassessed by SPR and National Grid.

2.2. Detailed below is the copy of an Elia email sent to SEAS with the list of key criteria for an integrated fast track solution. The Modular Offshore Grid (MOG) is being pioneered by Elia. National Grid is now working with Elia on new integrated solutions.

Drivers of the Scenarios

- Minimum number of shore landings
- Compatibility with existing onshore grid plans (when and where possible)
- Long term view for smooth integration with future grid extensions (e.g. extension to future DC network)
- Non-discriminatory solution for existing and future offshore producers
- Optimum positioning of platforms (Distance from shore vs. distance between platforms vs. distance from producers)
- Maximum use of infrastructure (CAPEX efficiency), avoidance of stranded assets
- Optimized reliability by avoidance of Common mode failures (increase security and reliability through a “Grid” solution)
- Optimization of operation and maintenance costs (OPEX) e.g. optimization of losses, grid design, technology choices, remote monitoring...)
- Possible reallocation of existing infrastructure for further optimization

This led to the development of 4 scenarios that were compared to the classical “Spaghetti” approach, which ultimately led to the implementation of the MOG.



It seems to me that the same criteria could be used for the connection of the East Anglia One North and East Anglia Two wind farms. I also understand that the study will remain quite conceptual at this stage.

Could you please confirm our understanding and comment of the level of details that you are expecting from such a study?

Looking forward to talking to you soon,

Sincerely,

Didier
Didier Wiot, CEO Elia Grid International (EGI)
[Elia Grid International, an Elia Group Company.](#)