

National Infrastructure Planning
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Via email to: EastAngliaOneNorth@planninginspectorate.gov.uk
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3rd December 2020

Dear Sir / Madam

Letter in support of East Anglia One North & East Anglia Two

The East of England Energy Group (EEEGR) is the 'all energy' sector lead organisation representing around 300 energy producers and developers, their supply chain and skills providers, across the East of England. We work across renewable, oil and gas, nuclear and energy infrastructure sectors hosting a number of events in region including the flagship SNS (Southern North Sea) conference, exhibition and workshops. For the first time this event was moved online in 2020 due to the global pandemic and we have continued to develop industry specific webinars and online events throughout to ensure our members are aware and actively engage with opportunities in the sector.

We write on behalf of the supply chain and skills providers from among our membership and beyond in support of ScottishPower Renewables and their East Anglia One and Two projects.

Our government has set challenging targets to achieve net-zero and these projects together with the other windfarms and renewable projects in the East of England form an essential and ever growing element of the nation's drive to achieve net-zero. The coast of East Anglia already hosts nearly 50% of the entire installed capacity for offshore wind in the UK and that percentage remains pretty similar to 2030 when we are due to have 40GW of capacity installed offshore around the coast of the UK.

In addition to the ever growing offshore wind presence in the region it seems increasingly likely that Sizewell C newbuild project may become a reality and studies on a major energy hub around hydrogen and Carbon Capture and Storage at the Bacton gas terminal and interconnector are looking increasingly encouraging. The East of England is gradually being recognised as the leading region for energy transition. Key to this transition will be the move to greater offshore wind capacity and approval of East Anglia One North, and East Anglia Two are essential to meeting these targets providing clean renewable energy for some 1.4 million households.

Whilst our key workers in the energy sector managed to secure energy provision throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and the amazing workforce even managed to construct new windfarms (ScottishPower's East Anglia One was commissioned in July 2020 with Around 20% of the turbine installation and around half the turbine connection work completed during the lockdown), investment in post COVID-19 recovery is essential to 'build back better' and the East Anglia One North & East Anglia Two projects are core developments in making such a recovery a reality.

The offshore wind sector has proven to be a key economic driver in the East of England, especially around Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft where a number of businesses have based themselves in order to help with the commissioning, building, and maintenance of offshore wind with a new Operations and Maintenance hub planned for Great Yarmouth and a Power Park project being championed in Lowestoft. The new Energy Skills Centre at East Coast College in Lowestoft is actively helping to produce the next generation of workers for this rapidly growing sector.

A Suffolk Chamber of Commerce survey recent found that approximately 33% of businesses may make 1-5 members of staff redundant as a result of COVID-19. At a time when young people are most likely to be on Universal Credit or made unemployed because of COVID-19, approval of offshore wind projects would have

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a major boost on our local economy and help our young people continue their career paths and training in order to work in the energy sector.

East Anglia One comprises of 102 turbines which in turn created some 3000 jobs in construction and will provide operation and maintenance jobs for up to 30 years, or nearly two generations of the workforce, this represents great value for money and demonstrates the major impact this can have on local jobs and career opportunities.

Energy is one of the three key pillars of the New Anglia LEP's Local Industrial Strategy and the importance of offshore wind is recognised not only in our local government structures, but also within our businesses and local communities which will rely on this project for the continued security and growth of our regions supply chain and skills providers as well as the local economy as a whole.

In closing I repeat that East Anglia One North & East Anglia Two will form a major part of our regions post COVID-19 recovery and form a major part of our nations drive towards net-zero. We commend these projects to you.

Signed on behalf of the regions supply chain and skills providers by Simon Gray CEO of EEEGR

Carl Ketteringham, MD, Offshore Digital Engineering Ltd
Mark Goodall, Senior Manager, Aker Solutions
Stuart Smith, Managing Director, People with Energy (PWE)
Dave Thompson, Business Development Manager, SSI Energy
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