



# **SAVE OUR SANDLINGS**

**Offshore Wind Farms  
EAST ANGLIA ONE NORTH PINS Ref: EN010077  
&  
EAST ANGLIA TWO PINS Ref: EN010078**

**Deadline 9 Response  
to**

**Examining Authority Rule 8 (3) letter  
dated 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021**

**from**

**Save Our Sandlings**

We wish to state our dismay at the recent announcement by the Examining Authority to extend the examination timetable by 3 months. Save Our Sandlings had been working towards the agreed 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021 deadline as the completion of the examination for East Anglia One North and East Anglia Two Offshore Windfarms and preparing for the commencement of the examination for Sizewell C Nuclear Power Station NSIP.

To be contacted on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 with news that a 3 month extension had been agreed with the Secretary of State came as a complete shock. Whilst we understand some statutory bodies, faced with multiple NSIP hearings to attend and comment upon coupled with minimal staffing and budgets and are forced to prioritise involvement accordingly, the extension places an unfair additional burden upon the many Interested Parties and local residents.

The examining process has proved challenging for many parties and with end dates in mind, efforts to establish and present facts were aligned to published agendas and timeline, culminating in expenditure for final submissions and expert witness testimony. To be faced with a further 3 months of submission deadlines and potential hearings is difficult to accept especially when another major NSIP for EdF Sizewell C Nuclear Power Station build is just commencing and time and resources will be required for this examination.

The Examining Authority should have shared their intention to ask for an extension with all interested parties at the beginning of February when it became clear the original examination end date would result in insufficient time to properly examine all the facts before them and the preparation of the recommendation to the Secretary of State BEIS. We appreciate Covid-19 placed restrictions upon the examination for East Anglia One North and East Anglia Two and the pathfinder status the Examining Authority and Interested Parties found themselves undertaking in this regard.

We believe that the course the examination has taken and the approach the Examining Authority has been correct and appropriate to the current meeting restrictions, even though we have had to endure some breast beating and back slapping submissions from the applicant on more than one occasion that has limited the time for response from other parties.

Whilst in an ideal world participation in hearings would now be complete, we will continue to participate in the forthcoming hearings process under duress and respond accordingly. We would request that time limits are placed upon the applicant for their oral presentations, followed by a fuller written submissions becoming the norm for future hearings. This will lead to sufficient time for others to respond and shorten the day length of individual hearings.

What is not clear at this stage is whether the future hearings for these projects will continue in a similar virtual format, or be held in person at a local venue now that national lockdown measures are easing. There is no doubt that there are considerable cost savings for all parties as a result of virtual meetings. The Planning Inspectorate need to consider whether examinations held in the virtual world require longer timescales than 6 months in order to robustly consider all the facts for future NSIP examinations as restrictions may be required for future pandemic control measures.

Save Our Sandlings are a co-signatory of the formal objection letter to the examination extension, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2021, with Suffolk Energy Action Solutions (SEAS), Substation Action Save East Suffolk (SASES), the Aldeburgh Business Association and Friston Parochial Church Council.