

From: [REDACTED]
To: [East Anglia ONE North](#); [East Anglia Two](#)
Subject: Letters from EEEGR and New Anglia LEP
Date: 13 January 2021 23:18:08

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing with regard to the letters sent to the Planning Inspectorate just before Christmas by the EEEGR and New Anglia LEP in support of the two Scottish Power Renewable projects, EA1N & EA2. Our comments apply to both letters as these appear to have been co-ordinated, the LEP being a member of the EEEGR, as indeed are Scottish Power Renewables and the Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy.

We respect PINS' decision to accept these letters, though we note that neither organisation registered as an Interested Party. We do though question whether it is appropriate for the EEEGR to be trying to influence the outcome of this matter when its members include both the applicants for EA1N & EA2 and the government department whose Secretary of State is the ultimate decision maker.

AEPA together with local campaign groups and community organisations continues to support the principle of offshore wind and the benefits it can bring. We also recognise the part the energy sector can play in helping to create jobs, particularly in Lowestoft which is rapidly becoming the support and maintenance hub for East Anglia's offshore windfarms. We welcome these jobs in an area that has suffered years of economic decline. There is, however, a lack of detail in either the EEEGR or the LEP's letters to support their claim that the two projects "will form a major part of our region's post COVID 19 recovery". As an example the EEEGR quotes the 3000 jobs in construction that were created by EA1 but provides no details as to where the companies that provided these temporary jobs were based. It also states that EA1 will create operation and maintenance jobs but again no indication of how many jobs have been created to date. Campaigners have repeatedly requested, to no avail, more detail from the LEP and the EEEGR about how they arrive at their jobs figures, how many of these jobs will be local, and how many of them permanent. In a 2019 report commissioned by the LEP called 'Future Employment Opportunities in Offshore Wind' (since taken down from the internet) it was claimed that 6000 jobs would be created in the region by the offshore wind industry. The definition of the East Anglia 'region' turned out to be a very large one indeed running from Essex in the south right up to (but not including) Humberside. While it is right that the wider region should share in the benefits from offshore wind, the number of permanent jobs in Lowestoft will, one suspects, run into the tens or possibly the hundreds, rather than the thousands. It is widely acknowledged that the number of permanent jobs in and around the Friston area will be zero.

In the latest edition of its newsletter The East Angle, Scottish Power state that "to date over £70m has been committed to East Anglia as part of East Anglia One". Out of a £2.5 billion overall investment in East Anglia One, that represents less than 3% from East Anglia. Meanwhile in its September 2019 report The Suffolk Coast Destination Management Organisation calculated a £40 million annual decline in tourism as a result of the adverse impact of these projects on the natural environment, the tranquility and the beautiful landscapes that attract millions of visitors to the area each year. Now that we know National Grid has made preliminary connection offers to a further 6 projects at Friston we believe that to be an under-estimate. With a minimum construction period of 15 years for all these projects, the total loss to the tourist economy for this area is likely to be nearer £700 million with the loss of hundreds of jobs in the Suffolk Coastal area. The local

area is therefore looking at a net loss in terms of employment just when the tourism industry and associated businesses such as hospitality and retail are trying to recover from the pandemic. So while there may be benefits to the wider region the negative impact of these developments would be felt almost exclusively by local communities.

What the EEEGR and LEP continually fail to acknowledge is that jobs created in and around Lowestoft and in the wider region would not be lost if the onshore infrastructure for EA1N & EA2 were to be built at a more appropriate place than the rural village of Friston. There are suitable brownfield sites that could host this industrial complex. Indeed Scottish Power and National Grid already have a suitable site at Bramford near Ipswich and the A14 industrial corridor which is where EA1N & EA2 were originally given planning permission.

During the pandemic the natural world has provided solace to many and there is a genuine desire to nurture and protect our natural landscapes and the ecology they support. To destroy this rural landscape in an area of outstanding natural beauty and replace it with an industrial one is the very antithesis of a green recovery to which the energy companies say they are committed.

Yours faithfully,

Graeme Murray,
Chair - Anglian Energy Planning Alliance