

Emailed to:
EastAngliaOneNorth@planninginspectorate.gov.uk and
EastAngliaTwo@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

24th February 2021

My PINS Refs: 20023171 & 20023172

Dear Examining Authority,

Deadline 6 Submission

The recent High Court ruling concerning the Norfolk Vanguard Wind Farm sets an important precedent in that 'cumulative impact' should play a crucial part in planning decisions of the magnitude of the East AngliaOne North and East AngliaTwo projects currently under consideration.

Much ink has been spilled and voices raised in objection to these projects because of the careless, thoughtless structure of the overall plan. Virtually no-one finds reason to object to the concept of wind energy but the way in which it is delivered is critical. One has only to travel around the local area to see countless posters expressing the 'Yes to offshore wind turbines. No to onshore infrastructure' sentiment. The current plans by SPR demonstrate little subtlety and scant consideration of the environment which is why the idea of a 'split decision' has much to recommend it.

In common with many others I would call upon the Examining Authorities to recommend to the Secretary of State a 'split decision' so that:

- 1. The offshore turbines are recommended for consent. (As stated above we are fully supportive of renewable energy and have no objections to the offshore elements of these DCO applications with the proviso all installations are acceptable to stakeholder concerns over the statutory purposes of the AONB affected by these proposals).
- 2. The onshore infrastructure is rejected absolutely in favour of full consideration of better locations for this infrastructure where the adverse impacts are minimised at a brownfield site as advocated by our MP, Dr Therese Coffey.

As an Interested Party, I have participated throughout the course of the Hearings and, in common with many other participants, I believe one thing has become clear - the adverse impacts of this particular onshore site location substantially outweigh the benefits of the application when taken as a whole. The impact on our environment and the local communities and economy would be devastating - but,

importantly, *needlessly* devastating. There are alternative sites available which could avoid this destruction by their virtue of being at a brownfield site.

These Applications have come at an unprecedented time of consensus around the importance of offshore wind in reducing the UK's carbon emissions and meeting the government's 2030 offshore wind targets. They have also come at an unprecedented time of consensus around the acutely detrimental impacts of radial connections which these Applications propose. There are still nine years to go until the Government's 2030 offshore wind targets. There is time for ScottishPower Renewables, National Grid and the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to get this planning Application right without jeopardising these important targets.

A 'split decision' would mean that no time is wasted with respect to the construction of the offshore turbines but would give the opportunity to rethink the onshore aspects of this project to fall in line with stated current government aspirations:

"We will safeguard our cherished landscapes, restore habitats for wildlife in order to combat biodiversity loss and adapt to climate change, all whilst creating green jobs;"

and

"To minimise the impact on local communities, we will implement a more efficient approach to connecting offshore generation to the mainland grid."

This time and opportunity will not come again. Please act to ensure a wise use of resources - the utilisation of wind power but also the safeguarding of fragile environments by the use instead of already existing brownfield sites for the processing and delivery of such energy.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Nichola J Winter