



SPR EA1N and EA2 PROJECTS

DEADLINE 12 - SASES PATHFINDER UPDATE

Interested Party: SASES

IP Reference Nos. 20024106 and 20024110

Date: 28 June 2021

Issue: 1

1. Introduction During 2020 the BEIS Offshore Transmission Network Review undertook detailed evaluation of possible economies and environmental benefits resulting from the offshore coordinated connection of windfarms, rather than continuance of the existing radial approach to connections. This work, which was largely undertaken by National Grid ESO on behalf of BEIS, was presented in a webinar on 17th December 2020.

The BEIS Review reported potential capital cost savings in excess of £6bn resulting from coordination of offshore transmission works, provided the earliest possible start was made (around 2025). Stakeholders were requested by BEIS to come forward with proposals for Pathfinder projects capable of early implementation to verify the anticipated benefits.

SASES considers that coordination of the SPR EA1N and EA2 projects would make a very suitable candidate for such a Pathfinder by allowing a much reduced number of cables and trenches to an existing National Grid substation site, at which the applicant already owns suitable land, thereby substantially reducing onshore environmental impacts. And this Pathfinder is understood to be compliant with the existing Ofgem regulatory environment.

2. Original Proposal At OFH3 a proposal was made ([\[REP1-227\]](#), p175) for the alternative delivery of the output of the EA1N and EA2 windfarms by a coordinated 1.7GW HVDC Bipole link from an offshore platform to Bramford NGET substation, via a single cable trench from Bawdsey landfall to Bramford NGET substation.

This proposal was reiterated by SASES at ISH4 [\[EV-055\]](#) as a possible “Pathfinder” project in support of the BEIS OTNR review, but was only described in outline. Some clarification was provided in [\[REP5-107\]](#). At Deadline 9 an updated document provided significant additional information and clarification about the proposal [\[REP9-076\]](#)

3. In response to the Applicants Comments on SASES Deadline 10 Submissions (REP11-052) which are relevant to SASES Pathfinder proposal:

ID36 - SASES has made further very recent enquiries of NGENSO regarding an increase in the SQSS 1320MW Infeed Loss Limit as discussed by the Offshore Coordination Review and have been advised that *“it’s a likely change”*. Were the Applicants to positively engage with NGENSO it is very possible that the change could be accelerated, in which case this objection to SASES Pathfinder would be fully resolved.

SASES has made an initial assessment of the costs of implementing its HVDC Pathfinder proposal compared with the current proposals and believes it to be economic, efficient, and coordinated, as well as incurring far less adverse environmental impact.

ID38 – SASES’ intention is that use of a 1700MW single connection should not result in the EA1N and EA2 windfarms being combined as a single commercial project. It follows, therefore, that the CfD cap is not an issue, as each project can bid for its own subsidy. The HVDC OFTO element would be built by whichever project was the first to commence.