SPR EA1N and EA2 PROJECTS

DEADLINE 12 – COMMENTS ON NGV RESPONSES TO EXQS

Interested Party: SASES **PINS Refs:** 20024106 & 20024110

Date: 28 June 2021 **Issue:** 1

INTRODUCTION

1. National Grid Ventures responded to EXQ 3.14.1 and 3.14.5. SASES has the following comments on its responses, but in addition NGV's responses, together with those of the Applicants and NGET, raise broader issues concerning cumulative impact which are the subject of a separate Deadline 12 submission by SASES.

2. National Grid Ventures introduce their responses by an "informative note" which is a reminder that separate converter stations will be required for each of the Nautilus and Eurolink projects. As set out in NGVs document, Nautilus Interconnector Briefing Pack dated July 2019,

   "a typical operational footprint for a convertor station covers an area of 5ha (12 acres) with a maximum height of 24m"

3. Given the nature of the convertor station sites in the vicinity of Friston being considered by NGV, as set out in its briefing back, substantial landscaping will almost certainly be required. Further the sites would appear to be either entirely or substantially on agricultural land, all or most of which will be of the best and most versatile type. See SASES' written representation on land use REP1-359.

4. The absence of a comment by SASES or a response by NGV does not indicate that SASES agrees with the response.

ExQ Ref	ExA Question	NGV Response	SASES comment
3.14.1 (c) & (d)	Extension of National Grid Substation Appraisal Appendix 1 to [REP9-062] contains a Nautilus Project Update document	c) There is a demand for coastal connections given the UK Government target to deliver 40GW of power from offshore wind by 2030 as set out in the Energy White paper (December 2020) and the Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution (November 2020). It is therefore inevitable that any consented	NGV assert that the use of MPIs for their Nautilus and Eurolink Interconnectors would limit Offshore Wind Farm impact on local communities by reducing the number

	(April 2021). This document contains details of “The vision for MultiPurpose Interconnectors” which it is stated will help to reduce impacts on coastal communities with fewer individual connections and less construction works needed. c) While reducing the number of individual connections could reduce overall impacts on coastal communities, could conversely this also lead to larger impacts on the area chosen for the single, presumably larger, connection? d) Is Friston being considered as a Multi-Purpose Interconnector?	NGET substation asset at this location would attract interest until capacity of the NGET substation is reached. Reviews such as the Offshore Transmission Network Review (ONTR) recognise this position and the need for more co-ordinated solutions to come forward. Instead of dozens of individual wind farms connecting one by one to the shore, MPIs would allow clusters of wind farms to connect all in one go; reducing the impact on the marine and onshore environment by reducing and consolidating the number of cable runs and onshore substations when compared to the existing individual developer led approach. MPIs would therefore provide a more co-ordinated and cheaper solution for consumers and reducing impacts on local communities. In the case of the proposed Friston substation, substation extension bays would be required to accommodate new connections, including an extension bay each for the Nautilus project and EuroLink project. Extension bays would increase the overall footprint of the NGET substation. d) Both the Nautilus project and EuroLink project are intended to be Multi-Purpose Interconnectors (MPIs), an evolution from the original intention of point to point interconnectors. This decision was made in response to a need for a more co-ordinated approach, which was called for by stakeholders. A MPI would comprise an offshore converter station with HVDC cables running to an onshore converter station (in each country). HVAC cables would then run between the onshore converter station to the point of connection. The MPI would connect into the National Transmission System via a substation. These components are shown in the MPI diagram at Appendix 2 of NGV’s Deadline 9 response. As detailed in NGV’s Deadline 3 response, NGV have undertaken feasibility work based on the assumption that the proposed NGET substation connection for both the proposed Nautilus and	of independent onshore Grid connections required. However, SASES has found evidence (e.g. Ref. 4) that such MPIs might be used to provide connections to Dutch and Belgian offshore wind farms rather than only those developed on land belonging to the Crown Estate. In those circumstances UK communities would suffer the adverse impacts of the onshore interconnector works with no reduction in the continued need to provide separate onshore grid connections for any additional UK wind farms. The use of MPIs is not, therefore, a guaranteed benefit to UK communities or a mitigation of the various adverse impacts of the onshore works associated with Interconnectors.

		EuroLink Multi-Purpose Interconnector projects will be at Friston.	