

Offshore Wind Farms

EAST ANGLIA ONE NORTH

PINS Ref: EN010077

and

EAST ANGLIA TWO

PINS Ref: EN010078

**SEAS Submission with regard
to Regulation and the Offshore Transmission
Network Review ‘Pathfinder’ Projects
Deadline 13 – 5 July 2021**

by

SEAS (Suffolk Energy Action Solutions)

Unique Ref. No. EA1(N): 2002 4494

Unique Ref. No. EA2: 2002 4496

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The Prime Minister's Task force on Innovation, Growth and Regulatory Reform (TIGRR) has published a Report¹ endorsing "... a massive injection of pace, energy, vision and agility into UK regulation," so the UK can meet its Net Zero transition commitments.

With regard to Offshore Wind the report states on page 120:

9.1. "Fully implement the short-term findings of the Offshore Transmission Network Review, reforming offshore transmission connections to support disruptive 'pathfinder' projects in the industry.

9.2. Reform the regulatory framework for offshore wind to simplify responsibilities across government, and create a more coordinated offshore network that uses standardised designs and can link with interconnectors at scale."

The formation of this task force and the publication of this report give further weight to the Prime Minister's assertion that regulatory change is being developed at pace to facilitate 'pathfinder' projects and the offshore coordination of wind farms².

EA1N and EA2 are two of the most suited windfarm developments to become an East Anglian 'pathfinder project' with integrated offshore solutions to minimise the number of connections onshore and thereby create significant economies of scale and synergies. A major opportunity to lead the world in terms of wind energy infrastructure. This does not require a ring main or shared assets but still enables an alternative grid location to be brought forward with less damaging impacts on our environment and coastal economies in line with the White Paper and objectives of the [BEIS OTNR Review](#). These two projects can share the same technology and share the same developer which would quite possibly even negate the need for changes to legislation.

¹ [Taskforce on Innovative Growth and Regulatory Reform Report](#), Published 16 June 2021

² See the Prime Minister's response to North Norfolk MP Duncan Baker when he asked the following question at [Prime Minister's Question Time on Wednesday 24th February 2020](#):

"If the UK is to become the Saudi Arabia of wind power, my coast of North Norfolk is surely the capital. But the current piecemeal and environmentally damaging connection method to the national grid is holding us back, as was proven by the Vattenfall judicial review just last week. We need legal and regulatory reform now. Prime Minister, could this be a job for the new Taskforce on Innovation, Growth and Regulatory Reform to help us to implement the much-needed offshore transmission network and meet our net zero targets?"

"Yes indeed. I congratulate my hon. Friend on his campaign to make his constituency the Riyadh, or possibly the Jeddah, of offshore wind. I can tell him that we are certainly looking at the issue of the transmission network review and we are developing the necessary regulatory changes."