

From: [Beverley Wigg](#)
To: [Norfolk Vanguard](#)
Subject: NORFOLK VANGUARD - DEADLINE 3
Date: 07 February 2019 14:55:46
Attachments: [N2RSOpenHearing6Feb.pdf](#)

Dear Sir/Madam

Following my oral submission made at the Open Floor Hearing on 6th February in Norwich, I am submitting the text attached.

This mostly relates to general observations about the NSIP process and the challenges faced by local people who have grappled with this very complex process and been overwhelmed by the sheer volume of paperwork and detail - and who have not had the benefit of professional or financial support. We heard a number of examples at the Open Hearing of local people struggling to find relevant information relating to their particular issues.

Whilst we understand that the process itself may not fall within the scope of the Planning Inspectorate we would respectfully ask that these comments find their way to the Secretary of State as it does have a bearing on the level and quality of public engagement and perhaps casts doubt on whether it can, in its current form, truly reflect local interests.

This is not a criticism of Vattenfall or any particular applicant as the workload and the lack of resources would apply whatever the quality of the consultation or application. And having attended recent Hornsea Three hearings, I have sent a similar submission to the panel responsible.

Kind regards

Beverley WIGG
N2RS – No to Relay Stations
N2rs.org.uk

bw@beverleywiggpr.co.uk



This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>



Submission for Deadline 3 (14th February 2019)

COPY OF ORAL SUBMISSION FOR OPEN HEARING – 6th February

Beverley Wigg. N2RS.

Reassurances Relating to the HVDC Transmission System

Our main focus has been the transmission system and our preference for HVDC, and we warmly welcome the latest assurances by Vattenfall that a U-turn back to the more environmentally damaging HVAC system - would require a material amendment to the DCO and that they too acknowledge the negative impact associated with HVAC.

We take this information in good faith and it is our understanding and expectation that Norfolk Vanguard and Boreas will never be constructed with HVAC technology.

The NSIP Process – A Herculean Task for Communities

However, we would like to make some general observations about the toll NSIPs take on communities and how ill equipped many of us feel in taking on multi-billion pound energy companies.

This is not to say that the applicant didn't follow due process but rather that the government guidelines, which presumably inform this process, are flawed and do not truly appreciate the herculean task NSIPs present for communities.

Those who are most affected - and who will have to live through the disruption during construction and the lasting legacy of permanent infrastructure - are local people who have no rights to professional or financial support. Although landowners are able to instruct land consultants at the expense of the applicants, local people have limited means to navigate these complex proposals and their efforts are entirely self-funded.

Few have the time to properly read and digest the multitudinous pages of detail, in order that they can put forward a compelling case of their own. Unlike most other parties this is not our 'day job'. We still have businesses to run, jobs to go to, homes to manage and children and elderly relatives to care for.

And for those facing the worst of the impact, there is the additional stress created by uncertainty about the future, their quality of life and the worry that their homes and businesses could be devalued.

Although we have been impressed by the knowledge and commitment of many people we have encountered, it should not be assumed that communities can always summon up the skills, expertise and resources needed to fully articulate their concerns nor that they are always going to be comfortable speaking at hearings.

Contrast this to the teams fielded by the developers. We are no match for the fully funded lawyers, engineers, environmental consultants and communications experts who do this for a living and it is no wonder that ordinary people feel disenfranchised, disheartened and unable to compete and in the end campaign fatigue tends to set in.

It is telling that when N2RS approached two planning consultants in 2017 - with a view to possibly commissioning their services – we were advised not to waste our money as the chances of influencing an NSIP were negligible.

Rural Norfolk also faces additional challenges in that many villages are geographically scattered often consisting of clusters of houses and small hamlets. This contributes to the charm and character of the area – but it makes mobilisation of communities much harder to achieve.

Fortunately for N2RS, the North Norfolk District Council, The Norfolk County Council and the CPRE were among those to share our aims and they vigorously endorsed the need for HVDC - but these organisations are dealing with two major offshore wind farm applications, running side by side, and they too are stretched. Some parish councils have been actively engaged but others have struggled and we have sensed that some are overwhelmed by projects of this magnitude.

Thankfully our group's particular goal has been reached but with some communities feeling their current issues are unresolved and with more offshore wind farms planned for the county we are left with a sinking feeling that the cards will always be stacked against communities until those inequalities are addressed.