

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [beiseip@beis.gov.uk](mailto:beiseip@beis.gov.uk)  
**Cc:** [Norfolk Vanguard](#); [Norfolk Boreas](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FOLLOWING THE HIGH COURT'S DECISION TO QUASH THE NORFOLK VANGUARD OFFSHORE WIND FARM ORDER 2020  
**Date:** 18 May 2021 19:13:31

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PINS /VATTENFALL NORFOLK VANGUARD - Registration identification number:  
20012656 Oulton Parish Council  
PINS /VATTENFALL NORFOLK BOREAS - Registration identification number  
:20022619 Oulton Parish Council

Dear Mr Leigh,

**Oulton Parish Council (OPC)** wish to respond to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy's letter to interested Parties regarding how Norfolk Vanguard should be redetermined, and the way a decision may be reached for Norfolk Boreas.

Oulton Parish Council have been fully engaged with the consultation process and the Examination of both of these projects, due to the impacts both projects would have on Oulton as a parish, cumulatively.

OPC would like to propose that both Norfolk Vanguard and Norfolk Boreas are redetermined together.

The ExA for Vanguard requested information which would assess cumulative impact, but then decided that not enough information was available, because of Boreas not yet being at the examination stage. A lack of information was simply not the case, as Boreas has always been a sister project to Vanguard, and all the significant details for both projects were developed at the same time. Certainly, these details were available to Oulton Parish Council.

It was simply a tactical decision of the Applicant to split the DCO applications and submit them one after another. It is likely that this decision was influenced by the idea that, precisely in this way, the cumulative impacts of the combined project might be disguised and minimised.

The whole planning process is flawed as it currently stands, due in part to the number and size of the current offshore wind projects and the ability to assess fully how all projects will impact an area, because they are seen as individual projects and are only considered cumulatively with a project which has already gone through the examination process.

These impacts have now been recognised by the government, prompting the Offshore Transmission Network Review, with the need for a more coordinated offshore approach to grid connections. This review would seem pointless if the Secretary of State ignores the fact that projects already consented but not yet constructed, and those awaiting decisions, may still go through planning in their current design as point-to-point projects - inflicting huge environmental impacts onshore and protracted disruption to local communities.

NSIPs are allowed to have flexibility in their design and make use of the Rochdale envelope, to accommodate the uncertainties of evolving technology. The same flexibility should be allowed to, and adopted by, the government. Circumstances have changed significantly since Norfolk Vanguard applied for a DCO, and BEIS needs now to take a proactive approach to the current offshore wind situation and insist on the need for all projects to come together in a coordinated effort to develop an offshore transmission network.

This will not only help to save the environment of Norfolk and Suffolk, but will - crucially - help to expedite the saving of the planet.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Mather

Chair Oulton Parish Council