

For the Attention of Gareth Leigh
Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning
Department for Business Energy and Industrial
Strategy
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By email only

20 May 2021

Dear Mr Leigh,

Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

Application by Norfolk Vanguard Limited for development consent for Norfolk Vanguard Wind Farm (Norfolk Vanguard)

We refer to your letter dated 29 April 2021 which seeks further information for the purpose of re-determining the application for development consent for Norfolk Vanguard.

The letter sets out (paragraph 6) a process to remedy any failure to assess the cumulative landscape and visual impacts of the Norfolk Vanguard and Norfolk Boreas projects in the Norfolk Vanguard decision making process, particularly in respect of proposals to locate the onshore substation infrastructure at Necton.

That process would evaluate any harm that might derive from the landscape and visual impacts of locating the Norfolk Vanguard substation(s) at Necton, and the weight to be accorded to those impacts taking into account the cumulative effects with the Norfolk Boreas project.

From your letter we have noted in particular

- (i) that, now that the Norfolk Boreas examination has been completed the Secretary of State (**SoS**) has been able to consider if any further relevant information on the design of the Norfolk Boreas substation was produced during that examination (paragraph 4)
- (ii) that during the Norfolk Boreas examination, Norfolk Boreas amended its Design and Access Statement (**DAS**) to include further information, and the SoS intends to take the DAS into consideration in the re-determination of Norfolk Vanguard (paragraph 5).

Your letter invites representations on

- (i) the procedure which the SoS now proposes to follow
- (ii) whether the examination should be reopened to consider the cumulative landscape and visual impacts at Necton
- (iii) the SoS's assessment of the situation (paragraph 6) regarding additional materials to make the assessment of cumulative and visual impacts in re-determining Norfolk Vanguard

Procedure

We agree that the procedure which the SoS now proposes to follow, as set out in paragraphs 6 and 7, is proportionate, fair and transparent, both with regard to the additional materials and information for the purposes of evaluating harm that might derive from the landscape and visual impacts of the Norfolk Vanguard substation(s); weighing the outcome in the overall planning balance for Norfolk Vanguard; considering any implications for Norfolk Boreas; and, with the exception of this specific and targeted joint consultation, continuing to deal with the applications for Norfolk Vanguard and Norfolk Boreas separately.

Re-opening the examination

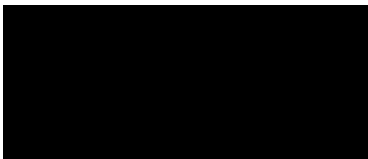
We consider that it is quite unnecessary to re-open the Norfolk Vanguard examination. For the purposes of the re-evaluation of any harm that might derive from the landscape and visual impacts of the Norfolk Vanguard substation cumulatively with the Norfolk Boreas substation, the SoS can properly and fairly rely on the original and additional materials referred to in paragraph 6, including the additional materials that the SoS has identified from the Norfolk Boreas application referred to in paragraph 5.

Paragraph 6 assessment

We agree the SoS's assessment of the position set out in paragraph 6 regarding both original and additional materials. In addition to the materials that the SoS has identified from the Norfolk Boreas application (paragraph 5), Chapter 29 of the Norfolk Boreas ES [APP-353] contains a full assessment of cumulative impacts (29.8) including the cumulative impact of the Norfolk Boreas onshore project substation and the National Grid substation extension in conjunction with the Norfolk Vanguard onshore project substation and the National Grid substation extension.

We will submit any further representations on the substantive issues as necessary following receipt of the SoS's Statement of Matters confirming the re-determination procedure and those matters on which he wishes to invite interested parties to make further representations.

Yours faithfully



Ruari Lean

For and on behalf of
Norfolk Boreas Limited