
From: Beverley Wigg [REDACTED]
Date: Thursday, 20 May 2021 at 17:35
To: "beiseip@beis.gov.uk" <beiseip@beis.gov.uk>
Subject: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION EN010079

Dear Sir/Madam

Please find below our response to your request for information re procedure, with a short introduction.

Please bear with us whilst we briefly provide perspective before commenting specifically on how the enquiry might proceed.

N2RS (No to Relay Stations) was established in April 2017 amidst concerns that cable relay stations would be built near the coast to support Norfolk Vanguard and Boreas. An early decision by Vattenfall to commit to an HVDC transmission system - thus significantly reducing the width of the cable corridor and eliminating the need for large cable relay stations near the coast – was warmly welcomed and a great deal of opposition and uncertainty was removed. N2RS continued to participate in subsequent consultations and planning meetings to ensure that commitment was not compromised.

Our supporters had a diverse range of views – some very much in favour of offshore wind farms – others very much against, but all agreeing with the central message that HVDC would be the best option for many communities.

HVDC is therefore non-negotiable and if there is to be any major rethink about the Vanguard and Boreas projects and any suggestion that the projects might revert to HVAC, this would ignite widespread opposition. We want to ensure that those aspects of the projects that have been acceptable to many people are not underestimated or discarded as the enquiry proceeds to address unresolved issues.

When it comes to the wider debate about cumulative impact and solutions to how we can best deliver energy with the least disruption to our region we cannot accurately represent the diverse views of 1000 or so people, but we would like to make a couple of observations which we feel would resonate with our group:

1. Whilst this review will consider the cumulative impact of Vanguard and Boreas, it cannot take into account the wider impact of a number of interrelated projects including Hornsea Three, which crosses Vattenfall's proposed cable routes, and which has escaped proper scrutiny, perhaps due to less cohesive local opposition and participation. The Ørsted/Vattenfall projects expose a flaw in planning procedures because they make no allowance for inspection teams to liaise and work together to facilitate the satisfactory public examination of cumulative

impacts. Having attended key hearings for all three major projects, N2RS hopes that lessons will be learnt when future examinations are determined.

2. Although these delays might offer some hope to those who wish to see a quite different approach, others will find further delays difficult as they struggle to plan their businesses or make decisions about buying and selling their homes. Many people have lived with this uncertainty since October 2016 and so for many an early resolution is preferable.

3. Every attempt should be made to isolate the key issues and seek rapid solutions, but if mutually acceptable solutions aren't found and individuals or businesses are expected to make way 'in the national interest' then they should be properly compensated. We feel this must be resolved as part of the next stage and not left to future discussions.

4. If proposals such as an offshore ring main were to become a significant part of this next stage of enquiry, this would need to be opened up to a wider audience through a statutory consultation and not just discussed with those currently registered as interested parties for Vanguard and Boreas. It is important that the implications can be fully understood by all concerned.

Kind regards,

Beverley Wigg
N2RS (No to Relay Stations)

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