From: Geoff Lyon
To: Norfolk Boreas

Subject: RE: Norfolk Boreas Project – EN010087

Date: 26 March 2020 17:38:33

Dear Norfolk Boreas Case Team,

RE: Norfolk Boreas Examination Revised Timetable

Thank you for notifying North Norfolk District Council of the proposed revised timetable for the Norfolk Boreas Examination. Subsequently I have seen the further written questions issued by the ExA on 23 Mar 2020 with responses requested by 31 Mar 2020 for Deadline 7.

As I am sure you will be aware, North Norfolk District Council, as a category 1 responder, is now tasked with assisting the local community deal with the impacts of covid-19. None of us are clear how long the current restrictions will be in force to help restrict the spread of the virus but it is now highly likely that normal Council services will not necessarily be able to be resumed in full for an extended period of time with many staff likely to be redeployed to other duties.

North Norfolk District Council has sought to take an active part in the NSIP examinations, not only for Norfolk Boreas but also Norfolk Vanguard and Ørsted Hornsea Project Three. Participation is considered necessary to represent the best interests of our District but participation is demanding of officer time and it is important for the sound outcome of this NSIP that key stakeholders have the opportunity to continue to take part in the examination. It is the view of NNDC that the current revised timetable, issued before the more stringent restrictions came into effect, does not afford sufficient time for parties, now stretched because of covid-19, to be able to continue to best represent the interests of their communities. I would therefore kindly request an extension to Deadline 7 and would suggest this be put back to end April 2020. I would also request that the 6-month period within which to conclude this examination be extended by a further period of three months given the extraordinary circumstances we all face. This will afford all parties the opportunity to conclude the examination without adding significantly to the delay. I appreciate this may not be a simple task to deliver but is a matter which would likely gain the support of the Secretary of State and I am aware has already been raised within government for consideration.

These are difficult times for all of us and I appreciate any help that the Examining Authority and the Secretary of State could give to participants.

Kind Regards

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