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Subject: Norfolk Vanguard and Boreas consenting timescale
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Attachments: [image007.png](#)
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Dear Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy;
Dear Minister for Business, Energy and Clean Growth;
Dear Planning Inspectorate;

Re: Norfolk Vanguard and Boreas consenting timescale

I understand that a number of parties are requesting a delay to the Norfolk Boreas NSIP examination process.

From my personal and professional perspective this would be very unwelcome and could negatively affect the timescales for realising the UK's wider offshore wind ambitions, of which both Norfolk Vanguard and Boreas will play a key role, and create increased uncertainty for local businesses that have been building capacity to supply these projects and create local jobs.

The planning process has been going on in the public domain for at least four years now – Vattenfall have been regularly engaging with people since late-2016, and all parties have had time to reflect on the issues and feed into the project design. The NSIP timetable is statutory, and the extraordinary measure of extending it now, so very close to the end of the examination process, when all issues have been examined robustly would send all the wrong messages locally and nationally.

Now is not the time to consider delays, but the opposite. Any further delay to the examination process would likely mean Norfolk Boreas will not be in a position to bid for the Government's support mechanism in 2021, and could mean an additional two year delay, possibly longer, before the project could proceed.

The level of uncertainty that will result will have a negative impact on investor confidence and the region's economic and industrial strategies and in turn on local skills development, education opportunities, local business, and community benefits. My consulting firm, Opergy Ltd., are major supporters of offshore wind, having directly supported the East Anglia region to become the dynamic and leading region for the deployment of offshore wind it has become. Investment in major projects such as Norfolk Vanguard and Boreas will only have a major positive environmental, economic, and socio-economic, and impact, particularly in coastal communities.

Norfolk Vanguard and Norfolk Boreas together represent, over their 25 year plus lifetime, one of the biggest investments currently planned for the East Anglia area. Vattenfall have invested heavily in building local relationships and demonstrating the wider benefits of their planned investments, becoming a highly respected company. I look forward to working with them as the projects come forward.

Delaying the deployment of large-scale renewable energy projects is counter-intuitive. As we

look not only to a post-COVID-19 recovery but also the rapid shift we need to deliver the UK's net zero ambitions, these projects will play a key role as well as creating local jobs, directly and indirectly throughout the local economy.

Regards,
Johnathan Reynolds

Managing Director, Opergy Ltd.
Chair, New Anglia Innovation Board
Member, Norfolk & Suffolk All-Energy Industry Council
Board Member, New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership



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