

From: [NectonSubstationAction Messenger](#)
To: [Norfolk Boreas](#)
Subject: Deadline 16 response to applicant"s response to deadline 15 questions
Date: 14 September 2020 17:45:09

Q: Concern regarding fire risk of substation with reference to a distribution substation fire which occurred on 15th August 2020 in Norfolk.

A: Major accidents and disasters are considered in section 5.6 in Chapter 5 Project Description of the Environmental Statement [APP-218]. The risk of substation fires is historically low; however, substation fires can impact the supply of electricity and create a localised fire hazard as was illustrated in the referenced news article. The design and operation of substations are regulated and controlled to the highest health and safety standards; and operators are required to develop emergency response plans and crisis management procedures as part of that regulatory process. The highest appropriate levels of fire protection and resilience will be specified for the onshore project substation to minimise the existing low fire risk. Substations are generally not a significant fire risk because of the measures put in place to minimise that risk. For example, any potentially flammable assets are not located near the perimeter of the infrastructure, and the ground materials and other physical barriers included in the design will contain fire to within the compound. Furthermore, the onshore project substation is located sufficiently distant from populated areas to further minimise the risk of fire hazard.

Why will the applicant never give a straight answer? As they know we are very concerned about the possibility of TOXIC SMOKE but they keep sidestepping this concern.

Also fires in substations are not rare. Items of news from a quick google search can easily testify to that.

In any case rarity is NOT 100% guarantee that a fire will not happen. We are not willing to risk our lives and health on it being a rarity. Why should we when trust this applicant when they will not even provide adequate screening from visuals, which clearly demonstrates that their concern for residents appears to be non-existent generally.

Can the applicant TRY and answer the question please? Should there be a fire, it must be accepted that substations are full of toxic substances, especially oils and other chemicals, which will create clouds of toxic smoke, that is a fact.

So, how will we be sure we and our children/livestock/wildlife will be safe?

May we also remind the applicant that this is the first time substations of this magnitude will be placed in the midst of FIVE communities. We do not know what will happen. Nobody does.

This also means that whichever direction the wind blows in, any toxic smoke will envelop at least one community.

The applicant cannot possibly say the substations are far enough from residents to be safe, unless they have developed clairvoyant abilities and can predict windspeed and duration at the time of any fire.

May we draw their attention to the current fires in the USA. One has to only look at the death numbers of people whose properties were enveloped by smoke from fires burning some distance away because of the exceptionally strong winds at the same time.

How does the applicant plan to protect residents, not just from fire, but from smoke?

1. Please supply us with a statement from the Norfolk Fire Service telling us how far toxic smoke of this kind can travel, and how dangerous said smoke will be?
2. Please supply us with a statement from the Norfolk Fire Service telling us what decisions they would make, and when, concerning evacuation in the event of toxic smoke from the substations?
3. Please supply us with a statement from the Norfolk Fire Service telling us how much greater will the risk be in times just before the harvesting of ripe cereals, when any fire has the capability of spreading, LIKE WILDFIRE, literally.

Regards

NSAG