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Sarah Chandler
By email only

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010109

Date: 03 October 2022

Dear Ms Chandler

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) – Section 51

Application by Equinor for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Sheringham and Dudgeon Extension Project

Advice following issue of decision to accept the application for Examination

On 3 October 2022, the Secretary of State decided that the application for the above project satisfied the acceptance tests under section (s) 55 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008). The Planning Inspectorate's acceptance checklist and the application documents have been published and made available on the project page of the Planning Inspectorate website.

In undertaking checks at the acceptance stage, the Planning Inspectorate, in this letter, has issued advice to the Applicant under s51 of the PA2008. The Applicant should pay attention to its content and consider how appropriate action might be taken in response.

1. Consultees identified on a precautionary basis

Given the individual circumstances of this case, the Planning Inspectorate advises taking a precautionary approach to consultation under s42(1)(a) of PA2008 to ensure that all persons potentially affected by, or potentially likely to have an interest in the application are given the opportunity to participate fully in the Examination of the application.

The Planning Inspectorate has identified the following parties based on a precautionary interpretation of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the APFP Regulations) that do not appear to have been consulted by the Applicant under s42:

- Northern Gas Network Limited
- Wales and West Utilities Ltd
- Leep Gas Networks Limited

- Last Mile Gas Ltd
- Squire Energy Limited
- Norfolk Vanguard East Limited
- Norfolk Boreas Limited
- Indigo Power Limited
- Last Mile Electricity Ltd
- Mua Electricity Limited
- Optimal Power Networks Limited
- National Grid Electricity System Operator Limited

The **Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)** does not explain why the bodies identified above do not appear to have been consulted. However, it is noted that the licences held by these bodies cover Great Britain or various smaller areas and the operational areas of each are not clear from information in the public domain. On this basis, the Applicant may wish to serve notice on the bodies listed in Box 6 of the s55 checklist when it serves notice of the accepted application under s56(2)(a) of the PA2008. If there is a specific justification why this is not necessary, the Applicant should make that justification available as part of the application material.

The Planning Inspectorate notes that none of the bodies listed above have been identified by the Applicant as having an interest in the Order lands and are not listed in the **Book of Reference (Doc 4.1)**.

2. Discrepancies between the Book of Reference and the S44 Stakeholder List

The Planning Inspectorate has identified discrepancies between the **Book of Reference (Doc 4.1)** and the **s44 Stakeholder List (Doc ref 4.1)**. Several parties in the **s44 Stakeholder List (Doc ref 4.1)** are not included in the **Book of Reference (Doc 4.1)**. The Applicant should cross-reference the **Book of Reference (Doc 4.1)** and the **s44 Stakeholder List (Doc 4.1)** and consider whether an updated set of documents should be provided. The Planning Inspectorate advises the Applicant to resolve the discrepancies before the issuance of notices under s56 of the PA2008, to ensure all relevant parties are notified of the accepted application, and invited to submit a relevant representation under s102(4) of the PA2008.

3. Flood Risk Assessment (Doc 5.3)

Although the Flood Risk Assessment is considered to be adequate at this stage, Figures 18.2.2 - 18.2.15 (inclusive) appear to have been omitted from the document. It is suggested that these documents are submitted as soon as possible, before the commencement of the Examination, so they are available with all other application documents in advance of submissions of Written Representations and Local Impact Reports.

In addition to the above three points, the Applicant is advised to note and address other errors and omissions, as reflected in Box 30 of the s55 acceptance checklist.

<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/document/EN010109-000472>

Please pay close attention to the advice set out in this letter and act on it accordingly. This will contribute towards a more efficient Examination and give any future Examining Authority comfort that the documentation is complete and accurate.

We trust you find this advice helpful, however if you have any queries on these matters please do not hesitate to contact our office using the contact details at the head of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Simon Raywood

Simon Raywood on behalf of Louise Harraway
Case Manager

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