

PRELIMINARY MEETING “ 17th JANUARY 2023

Madam Chair, we would like to draw your attention to what is a serious omission from Item 3 of the Agenda for this meeting (Initial Assessment of Principal Issues).

Annex C, Point 1 of the Rule 6 letter sets out the Principal issues to be examined by this Examining panel and the list does not appear to include any consideration of alternative grid connection sites. The applicant has failed to address or even acknowledge this in any of the documentation supplied with the DCO application. They have merely referred to the NGENO CION process which resulted in an offer of connection to the grid at Norwich Main. The entire DCO application has been predicated on this offer and the problem with this is, of course, that the CION process is focussed on the optimal economic solution for National Grid with very little consideration of the impacts on communities or the environment. Whatever the rationale provided by National Grid for their offer in 2019 (and we do feel they should be held to account for it), it should not be allowed to dictate the onshore path of the cables from the SEP and DEP projects without comprehensive justification by National Grid and by the applicant, who accepted the CION offer, and rigorous scrutiny by this examination panel.

Madam Chair, (on behalf of 95 Norfolk Parish Councils) I would like to ask the inspection panel to accept a written representation concerning the connection point to the national transmission grid for the SEP and DEP projects.