



The Rt Hon Claire Coutinho MP  
Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero  
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero  
1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET

Our Ref: ZA80520

9 January 2024

Dear Claire,

**Energy Infrastructure Planning Projects - Written Ministerial Statement - 9 January 2024**

I have noted the statement published today regarding the planning application by Equinor New Energy Limited for the extension of two off-shore wind farms with associated on-shore electricity connections, which is currently being considered.

The statement explains that the statutory deadline for the decision for the Sheringham and Dudgeon Extensions Offshore Wind Farm Projects will be taken by 17 April 2024 rather than the current 17 January 2024 statutory deadline.

I am aware that the plans include connections into the Norwich sub-station, as detailed at the weblinks below:

<https://www.equinor.com/news/uk/sheringham-shoal-and-dudgeon-extensions-secure-pathfinder-status>

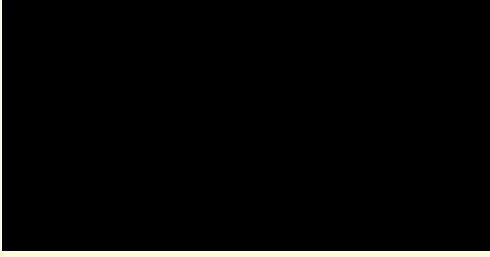
<https://dudgeonoffshorewind.co.uk/extensionproject/onshore-location>

Consequently, the connection into the Norwich sub-station will increase the power going through the infrastructure here. I would be grateful if you could advise on the amount of electricity that will be transmitted through the sub-station as a result of these applications should they be approved and the amount of potential capacity that will remain in the existing transmission network. It would appear that this application could lead to the pressures in capacity that has led to the National Grid's Norwich to Tilbury proposals, which you know are widely opposed in the East of England.

Moreover, given the proposals by National Grid for new overhead powerlines and pylons to increase the capacity in the electricity transmission network, I would be grateful if you can advise if these applications can consider the benefits of an offshore alternative instead. This would reduce the need for onshore infrastructure as the consequences of this application impacts on the wider area.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours ever,



**Rt Hon Priti Patel**  
**Member of Parliament for Witham**