

21 October 2024

THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATIONS PROCEDURE) RULES 2010

FIVE ESTUARIES OFFSHORE WIND FARM PROJECT

**RESPONSE TO THE EXAMINING AUTHORITY'S FIRST WRITTEN QUESTIONS &
REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION [PD-011]**

OUR REF: 20049242



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1 **RESPONSE TO THE EXAMINING AUTHORITY'S FIRST WRITTEN QUESTIONS & REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION [PD-011]**

1.1 NGET's response to ExA's Q1 is as follows:

ExQ1	Question To:	Question:	Response:
GC 1.05	National Grid	<p>Grid connection limit for the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Confirm what grid connection limit has been agreed with the Applicant as part of the connection offer that has been secured.</p>	<p>The Connection Offer is entered into between the Applicant and National Grid Electricity System Operator Plc ("NGESO"). Accordingly we have asked the Applicant to respond to this question to confirm the limits set out in their contract with NGESO.</p>
LR 1.06	National Grid	<p>Acquisition of rights for the proposed National Grid East Anglia Connection Node (EACN)</p> <p>Allied to question LR.1.01, having regard to the provisions of s122(2)(a) of the PA2008 and the CA guidance, explain why it is considered to be reasonably necessary to acquire any rights or acquire rights of the scale proposed in respect of Land Plots 17-031 (338,602 m²), 18-001 (34,524 m²) and 18-002 (35,988 m²) [APP-008] when the rights sought are intended to facilitate a connection between the Proposed Development's onshore substation and the proposed EACN. Should any such rights be sought in connection with the Proposed Development or would it be more appropriate for NGET to include provision for a connection between EACN and the Proposed Development's onshore substation as part of the scheme NGET intends to promote?</p>	<p>NGET and the Applicant have reached a level of practical agreement over the interaction of CA powers in plots 17.031, 18.001 and 18.002. In practice it is unlikely that the Applicant will need to seek to acquire land rights over the full extent of these plots as the key rights they need to secure are for (i) a cable route from the applicant's substation into the new NGET EACN substation boundary and (ii) access for construction and maintenance of their connection bay.</p> <p>Once the EACN substation design is finalised and the connection point known the Applicant will be able to draw down rights over a more closely defined area of land and the parties will put provisions in place to engage with each other to ensure this occurs. However at this stage, whilst these details are unknown and because of the limited life of temporary possession powers, NGET accepts that the powers as currently sought are currently necessary (subject to modification to prevent any ability to override or remove NGET assets). Where due to timing of the respective projects powers are sought over a wider</p>

ExQ1	Question To:	Question:	Response:
			<p>areas than is ultimately required, the parties will put in place a mechanism to narrow down the extent of the Applicants land rights in future once the substation design and connection point and cable alignment are known and agreed, to avoid any conflict with the NGET proposals in the EACN substation area.</p> <p>NGET agrees that these powers appropriately sit in the Applicants DCO. Whilst NGET and the Applicant have reached an agreed position in this respect, this has not yet been secured in contractual documentation between the parties and nor have final wording of bespoke protective provisions covering these limited points been agreed.</p> <p>The Applicant and NGET are working closely together to agree and finalise these issues and a further update can be provided at the second written questions stage.</p>
DCO 1.19	NGET	<p>Schedule 9 (Protective Provisions)</p> <p>Submit details of your preferred Protective Provisions for inclusion in the Applicant's dDCO.</p>	<p>As NGET have no existing assets in the Order Boundary, NGET do not require their standard protective provisions to be put in place in respect of this DCO.</p> <p>However as per their Relevant Representation and Written Representation, NGET do require agreement and protection in relation to the future projects that have an interaction with the Applicants DCO, namely Norwich to Tilbury and Sea Link.</p> <p>This includes securing agreement with the Applicant in relation to the overlapping CA Powers in respect of the EACN substation area for the Norwich to Tilbury Project, which we have provided an update to ExA about above and other areas of overlap within the DCO powers.</p>

ExQ1	Question To:	Question:	Response:
			<p>Securing an agreement to enter into a crossing agreement in future to address the offshore interaction between Sea Link and the Applicants Order, is also necessary.</p> <p>The parties are continuing to work together to conclude contractual provisions to secure this protection and we can provide the ExA with a further update at the second written questions stage.</p>

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For and on behalf of National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc

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