

3 December 2024

THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATIONS PROCEDURE) RULES 2010

FIVE ESTUARIES OFFSHORE WIND FARM PROJECT

RESPONSE TO THE EXAMINING AUTHORITY'S SECOND WRITTEN QUESTIONS

[PD-014]

OUR REF: 20049242



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1 **RESPONSE TO THE EXAMINING AUTHORITY'S SECOND WRITTEN QUESTIONS [PD-014]**

1.1 NGET's response to ExA's Q2 is as follows:

ExQ2	Question To:	Question:	Response:
GC.2.02	Applicant and National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)	<p>The role of the proposed East Anglia Connection Node (EACN) substation</p> <p>In paragraph 4.6.2 of the Applicant's Technical Note for Onshore Civils and Electrical [REP2-030] it is stated that the EACN substation would not "... solely serve the windfarms but is part of a wider project". What other projects would the EACN substation serve?</p>	<p>The EACN forms part of National Grid's Norwich to Tilbury project which was identified as part of a wider strategic proposal which also includes the now consented Bramford to Twinstead project and the proposed Sea Link project. Together these projects meet an identified need to reinforce the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS) to connect new renewable generation capacity (mostly offshore windfarms) and interconnector projects. The most economic and efficient means to address some projects connecting into substations including at Necton and Norwich Main was a new onshore double circuit 400kV connection between Norwich and Bramford and between Bramford and Tilbury which could be integrated with a need to provide a new connection point (the EACN) in the Clacton / Folkestone area. At this stage, the EACN is the connection point for three customers with signed connection agreements. These are the North Falls and Five Estuaries offshore windfarms and the Tarchon interconnector project.</p>
GC.2.03	NGET	<p>Need for the EACN substation</p> <p>If both the Five Estuaries and North Falls projects were to be consented by the Secretary of State but for whatever reason neither were subsequently to proceed to implementation, would there be a need for the proposed EACN substation?</p>	<p>The need for the EACN substation (which is not part of the Five Estuaries authorised development) will be considered in detail in the Norwich to Tilbury DCO which is anticipated to be submitted in summer 2025.</p> <p>In broad terms the Norwich to Tilbury project must proceed regardless of the windfarm projects proposed to connect</p>

ExQ2	Question To:	Question:	Response:
			<p>into the EACN. As set out in GC.2.02, the integration of the EACN as part of this requirement was identified as the most economic and efficient way of meeting the wider reinforcement need and several connection requirements. In the absence of North Falls and Five Estuaries there is still a requirement to provide a connection point for the Tarchon interconnector (which has a signed connection agreement in place) and future NESO connections.</p>
SLV.2.02	NGET	<p>Cumulative effects for the proposed onshore substations for Five Estuaries, North Falls and the East Anglia Connection Node</p> <p>What would be the likely height of any pylons supporting overhead wires transmitting electricity to and from the proposed East Anglia Connection Node substation and how would the height of those pylons compare with any existing NGET and UK Power Networks pylons in the area?</p>	<p>National Grid is still developing the design of the 400kV connections to the EACN and can confirm there is no existing 400kV infrastructure in the vicinity. From the southern edge of the Dedham Vale National Landscape, the section of the Norwich to Tilbury project connecting from Bramford to the EACN is proposed to be comprised of underground cable entering the western side.</p> <p>In relation to the section of the Norwich to Tilbury project that provides the connection between EACN substation and Tilbury, the statutory consultation (April to July 2024) was completed on the basis of the design being taken forward as overhead line using steel lattice pylons between the western side of the EACN and a section of underground cable at Great Horkesley where it was considered to be within the setting of the Dedham Vale National Landscape. This may change following consideration of feedback.</p> <p>An overhead line supported on steel lattice pylons would be similar to the statutory consultation design. In this design the connection starts at the EACN with the overhead line connected to gantries which</p>

ExQ2	Question To:	Question:	Response:
			<p>would be up to 15m in height from which the conductors rise up to then be carried on pylons. The first six or seven pylons are expected to be in the order of 50m height with individual heights responding to factors including span length between pylons, terrain etc. Taller pylons, in the order of 60m height, would be expected to be required to achieve necessary clearances of the railway.</p> <p>The existing lattice pylon infrastructure in the vicinity of the proposed EACN substation relates to the Distribution network and is operated by UK Power Networks (UKPN). These lower voltage connections radiate from the Lawford substation and are typically much lower. Individual pylons vary in height depending on voltage and design along with factors such as span length. Further details are provided Five Estuaries response to the Examining Authority's first written question SLV.1.03 in the Applicant's Response to EXQ1 (REP2-039).</p>

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For and on behalf of National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc

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