

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Planning Inspectorate
Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm

25th April 2024
Our ref: AG29411/MT

Dear Planning Inspectorate,

The Examining Authority's Written Questions and requests for information

I am writing further to your written questions and requests for information, specifically with regards to the Alternatives (AL 1.1 -1.3). I do so as the Member of Parliament for Arundel and South Downs, and as a registered Interested Party.

I do not believe the Applicant has demonstrated diligent evaluation of other potentially viable alternatives with a lower environmental impact. The first is a possible connection at Ninfield which could be a more suitable and less damaging connection to the one proposed at Bolney which will cut through huge swathes of the South Downs?

While the location of Ninfield may have been explored for the purpose of Rampion 1, I cannot find evidence that this has been properly re-examined for Rampion 2 – which I should point out is an entirely new offshore wind farm comprising of much larger turbines, with an entirely new cable route which is some 18 kilometres longer than the first one, and a proposed connection to a new substation, and should in no way be seen as simply an extension of the existing site. Therefore, I think it wholly appropriate that alternatives are reviewed in isolation of anything put forward for Rampion 1.

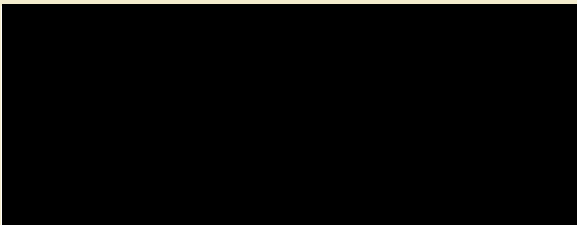
While Ninfield was dismissed for the purpose of evaluating Rampion 1 alternatives, based on projected connection costs, we do know that Rampion 2 as a scheme requires a much longer and more damaging cable route and should therefore be evaluated again. It is unclear how the additional projected costs for a Ninfield connection were estimated to be £132-£138million for Rampion 1, but are now assessed as £302million for Rampion 2 despite the additional 18km of cabling that would be needed to connect to Bolney.

Further to this, I can see no evaluation has been made to explore a connection with the Aquind Interconnector project which could enable a Rampion 2 offshore wind farm to connect onshore, where the interconnector will be located to the western side of the



proposed turbine array. Interconnectors, such as the Aquind project, will help integrate more electricity generated from renewable sources and offer prospect of exporting energy to make better use of generation assets. In terms of such significant energy infrastructure projects located within the same area, the planning could be more joined up with these options being fully explored to reduce impacts on communities, landscapes and habitats. This would have the benefit of gaining far greater support where Rampion 2 does not have the support of communities, particularly in the South Downs.

Kind regards,



Andrew Griffith MP