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Peter Cooke  
Chairman, Portbury Parish Council  
Adcroft House  
15 Roath Road  
Portishead  
Bristol BS20 6AW

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN020001

Date: 9 February 2015

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Dear Mr Cooke

**Application by National Grid for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Hinkley Point C Connection Project**

I refer to your letter dated 2 February 2015 regarding the date that has been set for an issue specific hearing on the Portbury/ Portishead optional connection alignments.

As you will be aware from the Preliminary Meeting and the subsequent 'Rule 8' letter dated 29 January 2015 the Examining authority has finalised the examination timetable taking into consideration representations from all interested parties, submitted at the Preliminary Meeting and in writing. When finalising the timetable the Examining authority also took into consideration the requirement to complete the examination within the statutory timeframe, and the need to ensure the timetable allowed all participants an opportunity to both submit written submissions and present oral representations to the Examining authority in a timely and logical manner.

Please be assured that if your Parish Council or other interested parties are unable to attend the issue specific hearing on 22 May 2015, there will be other hearings within the examination timetable where you will be able to make oral representations to the Examining authority. You may instead wish to consider notifying us of a request for the Parish Council to be heard at the other topic based issue specific hearings and raise any issues that relate to the Portbury/ Portishead options at these. In addition the Parish Council or any other interested parties are entitled to attend the open floor hearings to make oral representations about the application. Notification of the date, time and place of the open floor hearings scheduled for the 17 and 18 March 2015 will be issued by the Examining authority on or before Friday 13 February 2015.

Please also note that the examination process is predominately a written process, and it is therefore important that interested parties submit written representations in accordance with the submission deadlines set out within the examination timetable. In accordance with section 96 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended), in certain circumstances, representations not made orally at a hearing, may be made in writing to the Examining authority.

Further information on how interested parties can participate in the planning process is available on our website at:

<http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/>

In particular Advice Note 8.5 provides advice on participating in the examination. The Department for Communities and Local Government has also produced *Planning Act 2008: Guidance for the examination of applications for development consent*. This can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-act-2008-examination-of-applications-for-development-consent>

I hope this information is of use. Please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of our project team if you require any further assistance.

Yours sincerely

*Chris White*

Chris White

Case Manager – Hinkley Point C Connection project

Advice may be given about applying for an order granting development consent or making representations about an application (or a proposed application). This communication does not however constitute legal advice upon which you can rely and you should obtain your own legal advice and professional advice as required.

A record of the advice which is provided will be recorded on the Planning Inspectorate website together with the name of the person or organisation who asked for the advice. The privacy of any other personal information will be protected in accordance with our Information Charter which you should view before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.