IPC
23 AUG 2010
REF:

RECEIVED
15
20 AUG 2010
PINS AI

BARDON HOUSE
27A LOWER ROAD
WOOLAVINGTON
BRIDGWATER
TA7 8EF
21-9-2010

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have been referred to your organisation by the Department of Energy and Climate regarding 400KV overhead transmission lines.

I live in Somerset and National Grid have conducted consultations to present their options for the 400KV transmission lines from the proposed Hinkley "C" nuclear power station to Seabank sub-station near Bristol.

A subsea route is not their preferred option due to future capacity limitations and the additional cost of £1.2 billion.

Therefore if overhead lines are inevitable can the visual impact of the pylons be minimised to preserve the landscape as much as possible.

This could be achieved by a new generation of pylons designed to minimise the visual impact and maximise the aesthetic appeal.

I have made my views known to National Grid and their Project Manager, Peter Bryant was receptive to the idea of improving the pylon design.

However, National Grid have previously conducted a 2 year study

on the subject and decided to stay with the status-quo.

Is it possible that the prospect of an onerous financial penalty might encourage them to be more adventurous?

Given that the UK generally is adding additional clean energy generating capacity in sensitive landscapes; it must be the right time to lessen the impact of the supporting infrastructure.

Therefore can your department consider making it a condition of approval for overhead transmission lines that every possible effort must have been made to minimise the visual impact on the landscape this could possibly include drawing the best ideas from the UK's most respected architects. The additional costs for better designs would be insignificant compared to undersea or underground solutions.

Yours faithfully

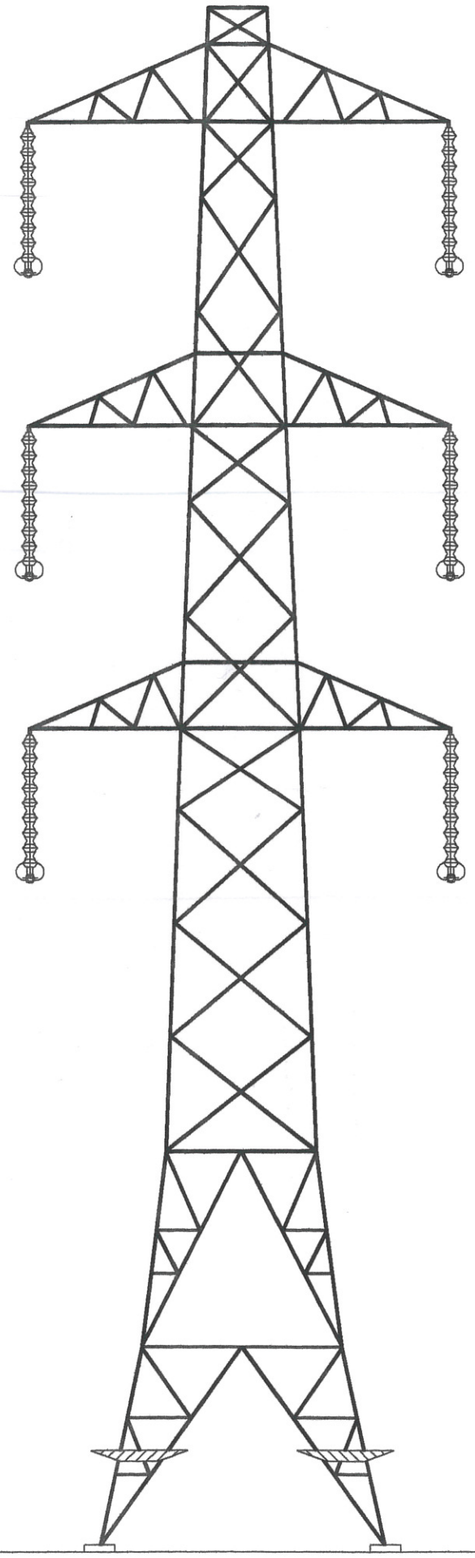
D E Digby

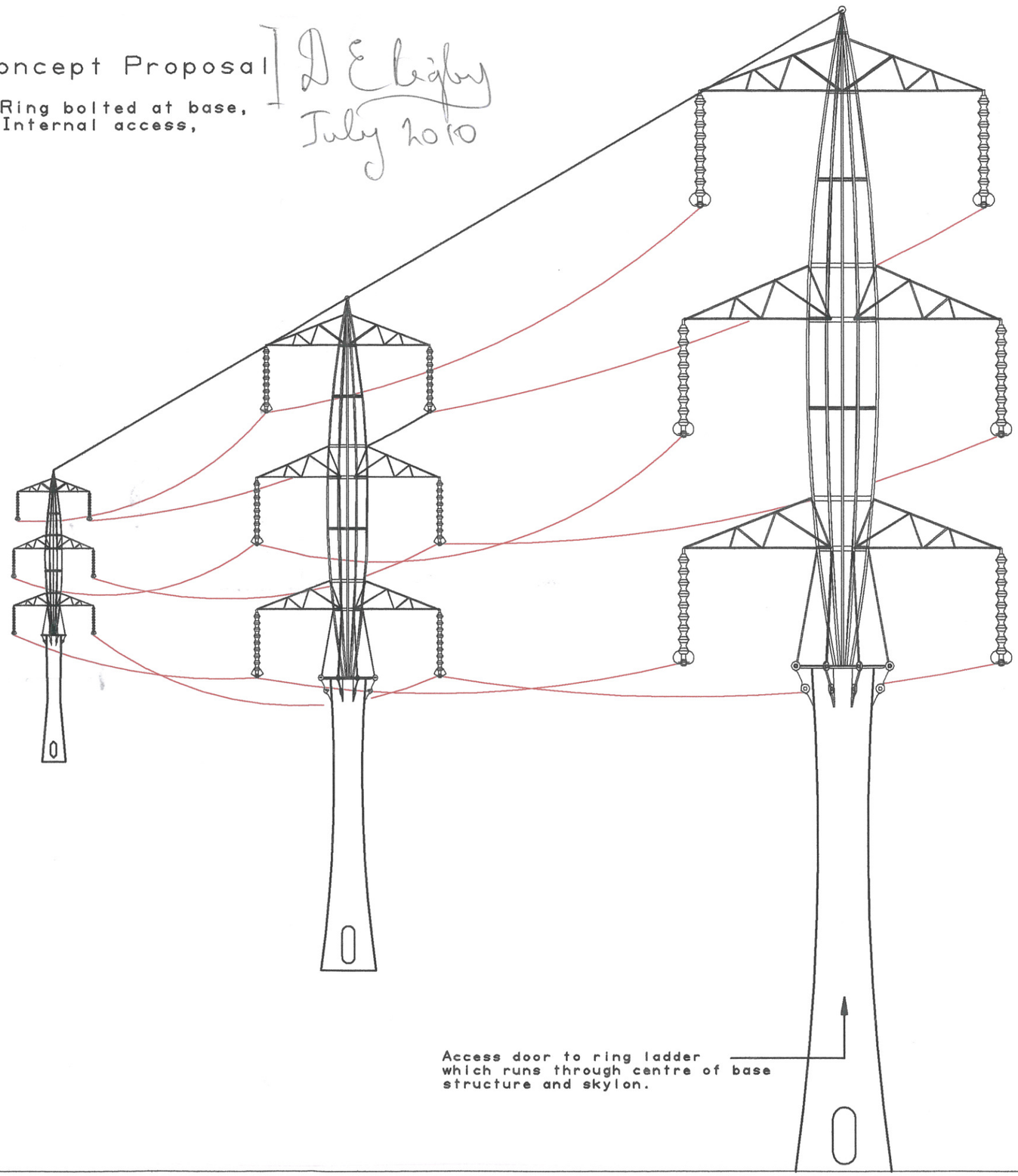
P.S. I enclose a copy of my own proposal, to illustrate that improvement is possible.

Concept Proposal

Ring bolted at base,
Internal access,

D E Digby
July 2010





Access door to ring ladder
which runs through centre of base
structure and skylon.