

Julian Brazier, T.D., M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Steve Quartermain CBE
Chief Executive, Planning Inspectorate
Room 3/13, Temple Quay House
2 The Square, Temple Quay
Bristol, BS1 6PN

09 MAR 2016

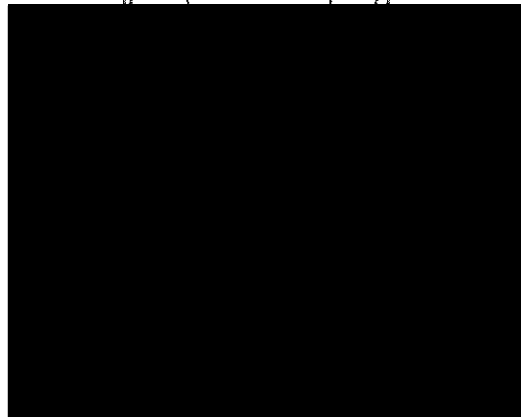
8 March 2016

D. Mr. Quartermain,

Re: Proposed National Grid Richborough Connection Project
Application Reference No: EN020017

I am writing to formally express my objection to planning permission being granted for the Richborough Connection. Please find attached the joint letter which three East Kent MPs wrote to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, The Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP, setting out their opposition. My

colleagues & I would be grateful if you could register objections from us all,



Enc.



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LONDON SW1A 0AA

2 March 2016

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amber Rudd'.

Re: Proposed National Grid Richborough Connection Project
Application Reference No: EN020017

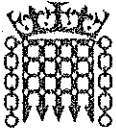
We are writing to you to express our opposition to National Grid's Richborough Connection project, which we understand was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in January under the reference above.

We collectively recognise the need to "keep the lights on" but this scheme is neither desirable nor necessary. This line of proposed pylons would, if allowed to be erected, scar some of East Kent's most beautiful landscapes with massive and intrusive structures. The tallest pylons planned are as tall as the subsidiary towers of Canterbury Cathedral, one of the most important World Heritage sites in Great Britain.

Of great concern also is that this project might provide energy but would also severely hamper the building of a vital Broad Oak reservoir designed to provide the area with its future water supply. We have been informed by National Grid that they have consulted South East Water on this point but our discussions with the water company do not confirm this: to the contrary, South East Water clearly have grave concerns about the potential impact of the proposed scheme upon the future of Broad Oak.

If it is necessary to import power from Germany at considerable loss en route then there is a perfectly viable undersea route from Zeebrugge to Kingsnorth that could connect to the British National Grid with no need for unsightly infrastructure whatsoever. We believe that scant attention has been paid to this option which might be slightly more costly in the short term but would, in the longer term, be highly cost-effective.

The Rt. Hon Amber Rudd MP
Secretary of State, DECC



We agree that Nemo Link and National Grid need to go back to the drawing board and, if they want to import electricity from Mainland Europe, come up with an underwater scheme that is environmentally acceptable.

[REDACTED]

Julian Brazier (Canterbury)

Sir Roger Gale (North Thanet)

[REDACTED]

Craig Mackinlay (South Thanet)