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To Interested Parties

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN020017

Date: 19 August 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and the Infrastructure Planning
(Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) – Rule 13**

**Application by National Grid for an Order Granting Development Consent for
the Richborough Connection Project**

**Examining Authority's second written questions and notification of Issue
Specific Hearings and the Compulsory Acquisition Hearing**

I write to inform you of the publication of the Examining Authority's (ExA) second round of written questions and to advise you of the details of further Issue Specific Hearings and the Compulsory Acquisition Hearing that will be held during the course of the examination of the above application.

Second written questions

The ExA would like to thank all those who provided responses to its first written questions. In the light of those responses, the other written submissions, and the matters raised at hearings, the ExA has decided to ask a number of second written questions. These questions are published on the Richborough Connection project page of the National Infrastructure website and can be accessed via the following link:

<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/richborough-connection-project/>

Responses to these questions must be received on or before **Thursday 8 September 2016**. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the case team.

Notification of the date, time and place of hearings

The details of the further the Issue Specific Hearings and Compulsory Acquisition Hearing are as follows:

Date and Time	Hearing	Venue
Tuesday 27 September 2016 9.30am arrival 10.00am start	Second Issue Specific Hearing on the draft Development Consent Order (DCO) including Schedule 9 deemed Marine Licence and any other agreements	Discovery Centre Lawrence Suite Discovery Park Building 500 Spitfire Way Sandwich Kent CT13 9FR
Wednesday 28 September 2016 9.30am arrival 10.00am start	Second Issue Specific Hearing on the effect of the Application on the Broad Oak reservoir proposal	Canterbury Cathedral Lodge Clagett Auditorium The Precincts Canterbury Kent CT1 2EH
Thursday 29 September 2016 9.30am arrival 10.00am start	Issue Specific Hearing - Construction effects including effects on agricultural practices	Canterbury Cathedral Lodge Clagett Auditorium The Precincts Canterbury Kent CT1 2EH
Friday 30 September 2016 9.30am arrival 10.00am start	Issue Specific Hearing - Landscape, visual and biodiversity effects including alternatives	Canterbury Cathedral Lodge Clagett Auditorium The Precincts Canterbury Kent CT1 2EH
Wednesday 19 October 2016 (continuing on Thursday 20 October 2016 if necessary) 9.30am arrival 10.00am start	Compulsory Acquisition Hearing	Canterbury Cathedral Lodge Clagett Auditorium The Precincts Canterbury Kent CT1 2EH

Anyone wishing to attend the Compulsory Acquisition Hearing should ensure they are available from the start of the hearing on Wednesday 19 October 2016. The hearing will only continue on Thursday 20 October 2016 if all agenda items have not been adequately covered on the Wednesday.

There will be no Issue Specific Hearing or Accompanied Site Inspection held on Tuesday 18 October 2016.

To assist with the organisation and procedure at the hearings, Interested Parties who wish to speak at one or more of the hearings should notify Chris White, Case Manager, via the details at the top of this letter by **Thursday 8 September 2016**, specifying which hearing they wish to speak at. Where several people or organisations wish to make the same point at the hearing, they are encouraged to identify a representative who can speak on their behalf.

Oral submissions should be based on representations previously made in writing by the particular participant or arising directly from the matters raised by each Interested Party or the ExA questioning. However, representations made at the hearing should not simply repeat matters previously covered in a written submission or earlier hearings. Rather they should draw attention to those submissions in summary form and provide further detail, explanation and evidential corroboration to help inform the ExA.

Agendas for hearings

We will aim to publish agendas for hearings approximately 5 working days in advance of the hearing date; but the actual agenda on the day of each hearing may be subject to change at the discretion of the ExA.

Cross-questioning

The DCLG Guidance¹ explains that at hearings it is the ExA that will probe, test and assess the evidence through direct questioning of persons making oral representations. Questioning at the hearings will therefore be led by a member of the ExA Panel, supported by other Panel members. The ExA may decide to allow oral cross-questioning of one party by another where there is clear disagreement between parties in question but only where this meets the tests set out in Rule 14(5) of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure Rules) 2010 (as amended), namely, that it is necessary to ensure adequate testing of the representations, or to ensure that a party has a fair chance to put their case.

Written summaries

Participants should note that there are deadlines in the Examination timetable for the submission of written summaries of oral evidence and any other requested information after each set of hearings to assist with the management of documentation.

Yours faithfully

Frances Fernandes

Frances Fernandes
Lead member of the Panel of Examining Inspectors

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 National Infrastructure Planning 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.

¹ Department for Communities and Local Government Guidance for the examination of applications for development consent