



To:
National Grid Electricity Transmission plc
Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
National Highways
Network Rail Infrastructure Limited
National Gas Transmission plc
Northern Gas Network Limited

Our Ref: EN020024

16 January 2024

Dear Sir or Madam,

Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed Yorkshire Green Energy Enablement Project (“the Yorkshire Green project”)

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

1. Following the completion of the Examination on 15 September 2023, the Examining Authority submitted a Report and Recommendation in respect of its findings and conclusions on the above application to the Secretary of State on 14 December 2023. In accordance with section 107 of the Planning Act 2008, the Secretary of State has three months to determine the application.
2. There are issues on which the Secretary of State would be grateful if the **Applicant, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (“YWT”), the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (“RSPB”), National Highways (“NH”), North Yorkshire Council (“NYC”), Network Rail Infrastructure Limited (“NRIL”), National Gas Transmission plc (“NGT”), and Northern Gas Networks Limited (“NGN”)** could provide updates or information as appropriate.

Bird collision – the Applicant, YWT and the RSPB

3. The **Applicant, YWT,** and the **RSPB** are requested to provide information regarding whether evidence of bird collisions has arisen since the close of the Examination at the existing overhead line crossing on the River Wharfe, or in the vicinity of the proposed overhead line crossing on the River Ouse. If evidence of bird collision has arisen, this evidence should be provided including detail as to the location of the collision event and species involved.

Biodiversity net gain (“BNG”) and green infrastructure (“GI”) connectivity – the Applicant

4. The **Applicant** is requested to clarify how GI connectivity will be incorporated into and achieved through proposed BNG and planting retention and replacement plans, including the Tree and Hedgerow Protection Strategy.

Voluntary agreements with Affected Persons (“APs”) – the Applicant and NYC

5. The **Applicant** is requested to provide any updates on voluntary agreements with APs regarding their land interests which may have progressed in their negotiations, or reached agreement, since the close of the Examination. Included in this, the **Applicant** and **NYC** are requested to provide an update on their progress.

Protective Provisions (“PPs”) and legal side agreements – the Applicant, NH (with NYC), NRIL, NGT and NGN

6. The **Applicant, NH** (in conjunction with **NYC**), **NRIL** and **NGT** are requested to provide any updates regarding whether bespoke PPs have been voluntarily agreed upon since the close of the Examination. An update should still be provided if bespoke PPs have not been agreed upon.
7. If any further legal side agreements have been made for the protection of assets in relation to the Yorkshire Green project, information on these should be provided by the **Applicant, NH** (in conjunction with **NYC**), **NRIL** and **NGT** as well.
8. Noting agreed PPs were provided prior to the close of Examination, **NGN** is requested to provide an update on its objection to the compulsory acquisition and temporary possession of its land interests by the Applicant. The **Applicant** and **NGN** are requested to provide an update on the progress of their crossing agreement.

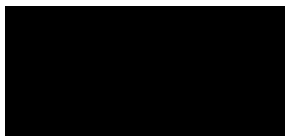
Noise and vibration in the vicinity of the Travellers’ Site – the Applicant

9. Noting the information set out in Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration of the Environmental Statement, the **Applicant** is requested to clarify the construction programmes for both the erection of pylon ID XC522, and the dismantling of pylon IDs XC522T, XC523AT and XC524AT. In doing so, the Applicant should clarify whether these works and the noise levels include the potential piling works, and how the programme of activities potentially affects receptors SEL16 and SEL17, in particular, what is the expected duration, noise level and schedule of works i.e. what works are involved, predicted noise level, how many hours and across which days? Subsequently, the Applicant should clarify whether it still considers that the works have ‘not significant’ noise and vibration effects on receptors SEL16 and SEL17.
10. Without prejudice to its position and its response to the above request, the **Applicant** should confirm as to whether or not updated wording for Schedule 3, Requirement 19, would be required if the noise and vibration effects of construction activities on receptors SEL 16 and SEL 17 were considered ‘significant’. If the Applicant considers updated wording would be required to better provide bespoke mitigation in such a scenario, the Applicant is requested to provide an updated draft of Requirement 19.

Off-site planting agreement – the Applicant

11. The **Applicant** is requested to provide an update on the voluntary off-site planting agreement with Woodstock Lodge Wedding Venue. If the agreement has been made, evidence should be provided of this, and the Applicant should detail how the agreement will reduce adverse effects on the business by the Yorkshire Green project.
12. **Responses to the requested information should be submitted by email only to: YorkshireGreen@planninginspectorate.gov.uk by 23.59 on Tuesday 30 January 2024.**
13. Responses will be published on the Yorkshire Green project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as possible after 30 January 2024:
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/yorkshire-and-the-humber/yorkshire-green/>
14. This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's consideration of whether to grant or withhold development consent for the Yorkshire Green project or any part of the project. Nothing in this letter is to be taken to imply what the eventual decision might be or what final conclusions the Secretary of State may reach on any particular issue which is relevant to the determination of the application.

Yours faithfully



John Wheadon
Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery
Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero