

The Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero
c/o The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

For the attention of Louise Harraway.

05 July 2024

Your Reference EN020026

Dear Ms Harraway

Sea Link Project Further Consultation: Monday 08 July 2024 to Monday 11 August 2024

Duty to notify Secretary of State of a proposed Application

Further to notification of statutory consultation issued to The Planning Inspectorate on 20 October 2023, National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (NGET) (“the applicant”) writes to provide formal notification of its intention to launch a further consultation for its proposed Sea Link Project (“the Project”), comprising reinforcement of the electricity transmission network between Suffolk and Kent, predominantly via an offshore High Voltage Direct Current link together with associated development.

The consultation period is due to start on 08 July 2024 and end at 11:59pm on 11 August 2024. The consultation will focus on a series of refinements to our proposals following consideration of the feedback received in response to the statutory consultation, which ran from 24 October 2023 to 18 December 2023.

The proposed changes are grouped into four categories that include permanent infrastructure; construction and maintenance work; mitigation, enhancements and approach to biodiversity net gain; and strategy for coordination. In summary:

- changes to the proposals in Suffolk include an alteration to the cable route north of Aldeburgh, confirmation of the proposed access route to the Saxmundham converter station and changes to the selected access route and associated bridge over the River Fromus. We are also proposing various changes to construction and maintenance access routes, compounds, and temporary overhead line diversions, and have introduced new areas of land for environmental mitigation and enhancement. The strategy for coordination with other third-party proposals in the vicinity has also evolved
- changes to our marine proposals include refinements to the cable route, the introduction of additional marine areas for construction vessel manoeuvring, and changes to the approach for backfilling marine trenches
- changes to our proposals in Kent include an increase of the overall maximum height of the converter station and confirmation of the type of pylon we intend to use for the connection to the Richborough to Canterbury 400 kV overhead line. We have also identified a further construction and maintenance access route off Sandwich Road via the former hoverport and are proposing various other changes to construction and maintenance access routes, compounds, and temporary overhead line diversions. New areas of land for environmental mitigation and enhancement have also been added to our proposals.

We have also made a range of smaller changes to our proposals. These include various refinements, including reductions and increases to the size of the draft order limits, which comprise the land we would need to build and operate Sea Link. We are also providing further detail on our construction methodology, including changes to planned working hours.

Concurrent with the s42 consultation, we are undertaking consultation with the public pursuant to s47, and in accordance with the approach set out in the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). Notice of the publication of the SoCC was printed in local and national newspapers during the statutory consultation period which ran from October to December 2023, and this process has been repeated for the forthcoming further consultation.

The SoCC allowed for future targeted consultations in accordance with the principles and methods set out therein. A copy of the SoCC is enclosed with this letter.

NGET supplies the Secretary of State with the materials that will be sent to the s42 consultees:

- Copy of the letter sent to S42 consultees;
- Copy of the Project newsletter sent to consultees; and
- Copy of the formal newspaper notice of the Application in accordance with section 48 of the Act and Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations.

All consultees have been provided with a link to the Project website www.nationalgrid.com/sealink where they can access the full suite of documents previously published for the Sea Link statutory consultation, along with the new documents produced for this further consultation including:

- Community Newsletter
- Project update document
- Additional Preliminary Environmental Information
- Executive Summary of the Additional Preliminary Environmental Information
- Environmental Constraints Plans
- General Arrangement Plans
- Changes to Order Limit Plans
- Further Design Drawing

In addition to the website, consultation materials will be available at deposit locations within the vicinity of the Project.

National Grid will publish a notice in local and national newspapers as required under section 48 of the Act to publicise the proposed application. A copy of this notice is enclosed.

As required by section 47 of the Act, an additional notice of the publication of the Statement of Community Consultation is being published in relevant newspapers. A copy of this notice is enclosed.

I would be grateful for confirmation of safe receipt of this letter and accompanying items. Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com

Yours faithfully,

Sebastian Stevens

Senior Project Manager

