



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

3 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2AW

Telephone : +44 (0) 300 068 5770
e-mail: giles.scott@decc.gsi.gov.uk
Web: www.decc.gov.uk

National Grid Gas plc and Northern
Gas Networks

Your Ref:
Our Ref: EN060004
Date: 13 July 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning
(Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) –**

**Application by National Grid Gas plc for an Order Granting Development
Consent for the River Humber Gas Pipeline Replacement Project**

**REQUEST FOR COMMENTS FROM THE APPLICANT AND NORTHERN GAS
NETWORKS LIMITED ON THE APPLICATION FOR THE PROPOSED RIVER
HUMBER GAS PIPELINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT- EN060004**

Following the completion of the examination on 7 March 2016, the Examining Authority submitted a Report and Recommendation in respect of its findings and conclusions on the above application to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on 27 May 2016. In accordance with section 107 of the Planning Act 2008, the Secretary of State has three months to determine the application.

There are several issues in respect of the Compulsory Acquisition rights sought by the Applicant on which the Secretary of State should be grateful if parties identified in bold could provide an update or further clarification.

Statutory Undertakers

The Secretary of State notes that the confidential side agreement with Northern Gas Networks Limited, the protective provisions for KCOM Group plc and the basis asset protection agreement with Network Rail to protect the interests of these statutory undertakers had not been received in an agreed version by the close of the Examination. The Secretary of State requests the **Applicant** to provide an update on the status of these negotiations and confirmation as to whether these matters have now been agreed, and if not, when it is expected that they might be agreed.

The Secretary of State also notes that at the end of the Examination, the objection made by Northern Gas Networks Limited had not been withdrawn. The Secretary of State requests an update from **Northern Gas Networks Limited** on the details of how any outstanding issues that remain will be resolved.

The deadline for any response is 22 July 2016.

Responses to the points outlined in this letter should be submitted by email to Riverhumbergaspipeline@pins.gsi.gov.uk. Please send any hard copy response to River Humber Gas Pipeline Project Team, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, c/o the Planning Inspectorate, 3B Eagle Wing, Temple Quay House, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6PN. If you will have difficulty in submitting a response by the consultation deadline, please inform the Project Team.

Your response will be published on the River Humber Gas Pipeline project page of the Planning Inspectorate website as soon as possible after 22 July 2016.

This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's decision whether or not to grant development consent for the River Humber Gas Pipeline Replacement Project, and nothing in this letter is to be taken to imply what that decision might be.

Yours faithfully

Giles Scott

Giles Scott
Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning and Coal Liabilities