

**From:** Marc Vlessing [REDACTED]@pocketliving.com>

**Sent:** 21 April 2023 12:31

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**Cc:** [REDACTED]@beis.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@nationalgrid.gov.uk; Fiona Gilmour @icloud.com>;  
[REDACTED]@nationalgrid.gov.uk; [REDACTED]

**Subject:** 'Sealink' and 'Eurolink' consultations

Dear Reader,

I was aware that following National Grid's consultations on the Nautilus interconnector project in 2020/21 it started consulting on two more interconnector

projects ('Sealink' and 'Eurolink') at the end of last year and wrote to John Pettigrew and the SoS with my views on those then. However, I have recently learnt that National Grid is now also planning separate statutory consultations for each project towards the end of this year, with a view to submitting formal applications in 2024.

I strongly believe there should be one examination under the same examining authority for all three interconnector projects. They each involve the same or similar issues and intend to connect at the proposed new National Grid connection hub at Friston (subject to the outcome of Judicial Reviews). If these projects are coordinated properly, their onshore impacts should be identical and, therefore, it would be much more efficient for all parties if there was only one planning/examination process for all three projects.

There is a clear precedent for this with the EA1N and EA2 projects.

I would also note that the behaviour of the various organisations involved seems to suggest that they believe that salami slicing all these huge projects through

multiple consultations will not somehow be noticed by well informed local residents who are becoming increasingly exasperated by the way in which this country thinks it

is acceptable to run these kinds of exercises. We can, and should, do better

to create infrastructure that does not merely reflect the best price that listed companies seek to get away with, but actually leaves behind a scaleable, well thought through and environmentally acceptable investment for future generations (locally *and*

nationally). If the Victorians understood the good sense of that, we surely should be able to follow in their steps today?

Yours,

**Marc Vlessing OBE**

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**From:** South East Anglia Link <[SouthEastAngliaLink@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:SouthEastAngliaLink@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** 25 April 2023 11:35

**To:** Marc Vlessing <[REDACTED]@pocketliving.com>; Nautilus <[Nautilus@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:Nautilus@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)>; South East Anglia Link <[SouthEastAngliaLink@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:SouthEastAngliaLink@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)>; Eurolink Interconnector <[EurolinkInterconnector@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:EurolinkInterconnector@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED]@nationalgrid.com; [secretary.state@beis.gov.uk](mailto:secretary.state@beis.gov.uk)

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**Subject:** RE: 'Sealink' and 'Eurolink' consultations

Dear Mr Vlessing

Thank you for your email. My name is Michele Gregory and I am the Case Manager assigned to the Sea Link project, Emily Davies is the Case Manager assigned to the Nautilus project and Robert Cook is the Case Manager assigned to the Eurolink project, the relevant contact details are below.

We note your comments regarding the numerous consultations for the Sea Link project (Developer - National Grid Electrical Transmission (NGET)) and the EuroLink and Nautilus projects (Developer - National Grid Ventures (NGV)). As you are aware Pre-application consultation is run by the Developer and we would advise you to raise any concerns about the impact on the community of multiple consultations, both non-statutory and statutory, with the Developers. You can also raise any concerns with the relevant Local Authorities, and I note that you have copied your email to them. Information about the consultation process to be followed by Developers is set out in the Planning Inspectorate's ['Advice Note 8.1: Responding to the developer's pre-application consultation'](#).

With regard to your comment about a single Examination process for these three projects please note that the timing for the submission of a DCO application lies with the Developer. When an application is submitted the Planning Inspectorate has a statutory 28 days to consider if it can be accepted. If it is accepted an Examining Authority will be appointed in due course. It is then for the appointed Examining Authority to determine how each application should be examined. The Planning Inspectorate is not able to compel Developers to merge applications. There are also many other factors that the Planning Inspectorate would need to consider if these applications are accepted for Examination when compiling an Examination timetable, such as resource implications and the workloads associated with each individual application within the statutory deadlines, for both internal and external stakeholders (including Parish Councils and local residents / members of the community).

The Planning Inspectorate will however continue to explore the possibilities for co-ordination, for both construction and the Planning Act 2008 process, with the Developers.

Please note that your email and this response will be published on the relevant project webpages of the National Infrastructure Planning website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008.

I hope this information is helpful.

Kind regards

Michele Gregory Emily Davies

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Robert Cook

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**Michele Gregory | Case Manager - National Infrastructure**

The Planning Inspectorate

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