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Elliot Hayes  
Project Manager  
Highways England  
By email

Your Ref:

Our Ref: TR010036

Date: 23 August 2018

Dear Sir/ Madam

## **Planning Act 2008 – Section 51**

### **Application by Highways England for an Order Granting Development Consent for the A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling Project**

#### **Advice following issue of decision to accept the application for examination**

On 23 August 2018 the Secretary of State decided that the application for the above project satisfied the acceptance tests under section 55 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008). The Planning Inspectorate's s55 Acceptance of Applications Checklist (the Checklist) has been published and made available on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website.

In undertaking checks at the Acceptance stage the Planning Inspectorate made some observations in relation to the application. This letter comprises advice to the Applicant, provided under section 51 of the PA2008, in respect of those observations. The Applicant should pay attention to its content and consider how appropriate action might be taken in response.

#### **Section 42(1)(a) persons**

As detailed in the published Checklist (Box 6), there are a number of potentially relevant bodies which, on the basis of the information provided by the Applicant, do not appear to have been consulted at the Pre-application stage. These are:

- The NHS Commissioning Board, NHS England
- The South West office of The Forestry Commission
- Murphy Power Distribution Limited
- Vattenfall Networks Limited
- Peel Electricity Networks Limited

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Unless there is a good reason in each case why the Applicant considers that these bodies are not relevant to the Proposed Development, the Applicant is advised to include these bodies, or their appropriate successors, in the notification process for the accepted application. This should highlight the opportunities to become involved in the examination of the application. In particular notification should explain the process by which they may make Relevant Representations during the advertised period.

### **Draft Development Consent Order (dDCO), Draft Explanatory Memorandum and Statement of Reasons**

It is noted in the checklist (Box 30; Regulation 5(2)(b), 5(2)(c) and 5(2)(h)) that there are some inconsistencies within the dDCO and also between the dDCO and both the Explanatory Memorandum and Statement of Reasons.

The Applicant is advised to carry out a full review of its dDCO, Explanatory Memorandum and Statement of Reasons to ensure that all information, particularly cross-references between these documents, is recorded accurately.

### **Book of Reference (BoR)**

A number of discrepancies have been noted in the Checklist in relation to the BoR (Box 30; Regulation 5(2)(d)). The Applicant is advised to carry out a full review of the BoR including careful consideration of the descriptions provided of plot locations.

### **Works Plans**

It is noted in the Checklist (Box 30; Regulation 5(2)(j)) that there are number of differences between the description of the Works in Schedule 1 of the dDCO and the information recorded on the Works Plans.

The Applicant is advised to carry out a close review of how the Works Plans interact with the dDCO.

### **Submission of updated documents**

The appointed Examining Authority (ExA) is likely to formally request updated versions of the documents referred to above at the Pre-examination stage. The Applicant is therefore advised to start its review and update of those documents without delay with a view to updated versions being ready to be made available to the ExA at the appropriate time.

With regard to version control of application documents, the Planning Inspectorate advises the Applicant to refer to the Guide to the Application 'good example document' published on the National Infrastructure Planning website:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/example-documents/>

I trust you find this advice helpful; however, if you have any queries about the matters raised please do not hesitate to contact our office using the contact details at the head of this letter.

Yours sincerely

*Michele Gregory*

**Michele Gregory**  
**Case Manager**

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