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By Email

Dear Ms Kopala

A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Road Improvement Scheme (the "Scheme") Response to request for an update on outstanding Protective Provisions for and on behalf of National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc and National Grid Gas Plc

A consultation letter issued by the Secretary of State for Transport on 31 May 2022 in relation to the above matter, requests an update on outstanding Protective Provisions (the "Consultation Letter"). In response to paragraph 5 of the Consultation Letter and on behalf of our clients, National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc (NGET) and National Grid Gas Plc (NGG), we confirm as follows:

Background

As noted in submissions and responses made to the Examining Authority, specific interactions between NGET and NGG apparatus and the Scheme have been identified. These interactions impact:

1. the high-voltage overhead power line that forms an essential part of the NGET national electricity transmission network. The Scheme intersects the route of the overhead power line and obstructs/removes access to the towers associated with it. The Scheme will also interact with NGET's planned refurbishment of its apparatus along the Eaton Socon/Wymondley overhead power line; and
2. the high-pressure gas pipeline which forms an essential part of the NGG national gas transmission network. The Scheme intersects and/or interacts with the pipeline at four locations; and

Protective provisions have been agreed between NGET/NGG and the Applicant. These protective provisions were included in the dDCO submitted by National Highways (the "Applicant") to the Examination at Deadline 9.

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However, the significance of the site specific interactions identified at (1) and (2) above, are such that further detail is required on the protection to be afforded to the NGET and NGG apparatus and their respective rights/interests in land. Agreement on these matters is essential to ensuring that NGET and NGG are able to satisfy their statutory duties to maintain an efficient and economical network for the conveyance of electricity and gas and is fundamental to ensuring safety.

NGET update on progress (in response to para 5 of the Consultation Letter)

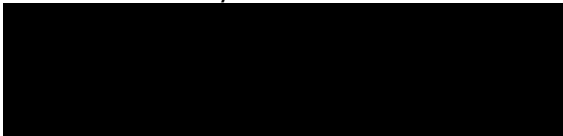
NGET and the Applicant have continued discussions following the close of the Examination in relation to the above matters with a view to reaching agreement on outstanding issues. All outstanding issues have now been resolved and NGET and the Applicant are working to progress agreement accordingly. It is expected that NGET will be in a position to withdraw its objection to the Application shortly. The protective provisions included in the dDCO at Deadline 9 can then be relied upon by the Secretary of State in their decision-making for the Application and no further amendment will be required.

NGG update on progress (in response to para 5 of the Consultation Letter)

NGG and the Applicant have continued discussions following the close of the Examination in relation to the above matters with a view to reaching agreement on outstanding issues. All outstanding issues have now been resolved and NGG and the Applicant are working to progress agreement accordingly. It is expected that NGG will be in a position to withdraw its objection to the Application shortly. The protective provisions included in the dDCO at Deadline 9 can then be relied upon by the Secretary of State in their decision-making for the Application and no further amendment will be required.

Many thanks

Yours sincerely



Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP