

WRITTEN REPRESENTATION

Representation by National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc to the M60/M62/M66 Simister Island Interchange Project ("the Project")

Introduction

We are instructed by National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc ('NGET') in relation to the application made by National Highways ('the Applicant') for a Development Consent Order ('the draft Order') for the M60/M62/M66 Simister Island Interchange ('the Project'). This written representation is made on behalf of NGET.

The proposed junction improvement works are located at M60 J18 (Simister Island), north of Manchester. The Project proposes to construct a free-flow link from the M60 eastbound to southbound carriageway, realign M66 southbound carriageway, construct a two-way free-flow road from M60 northbound to westbound, widen the M66 and other associated works.

Chapter 2 of the Environmental Statement states that the Project interacts with NGET's assets including high voltage (HV) overhead cables and within the Order Limits there are two NGET pylons, with several more located in close proximity to the Project. Running between the pylons are overhead cables. It is stated that the overhead cables would not be affected by the design for the Scheme, however, the construction work methodology would be impacted.

The Applicant is seeking permanent acquisition and temporary possession over several parcels of land which contain NGET assets, including Plots 1/1c, 1/3c, 1/3d, 1/3e, 1/5a, 1/5c, 1/5d, 1/5e, 1/5f, 1/5h, 1/5ap, 1/5at, 1/5ay, 1/5az, 1/5aaf, 1/9, 1/34, 2/3b, 2/3c, 3/1a, 3/2a and 3/4. The Applicant is also seeking permanent acquisition and temporary possession over parcels which contain rights held by NGET to maintain their assets included within sheets 1-3 of the Land Plans.

NGET is part of the National Grid group, which owns and operates the electricity transmission infrastructure in the UK. National Grid holds the Transmission Licence for England and Wales and is thus obligated to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical system of electricity transmission and to facilitate competition in the generation and supply of electricity, as set out in Section 9 of the Electricity Act 1989 (the Electricity Act). As a responsible statutory undertaker, NGET's primary concern is to meet its statutory obligations and ensure that any development does not impact in any adverse way upon those statutory obligations.

NGET does not object in principle to the proposals. However it is imperative that relevant and adequate protections are put in place so not to compromise NGET's ability to deliver its statutory undertaking. NGET wishes to make a written representation to the Project in order to protect their position in relation to infrastructure and land which is within or in close proximity to the draft Order Limits ('the Order Limits') in addition to protecting its future proposed infrastructure.

NGET will require appropriate protection for retained or proposed apparatus, including compliance with relevant standards for works proposed within close proximity of its apparatus or proposed apparatus. NGET's rights of access to inspect, maintain, renew and repair such apparatus located within or in close proximity to the Order Limits must be maintained at all times and access to inspect and maintain such apparatus must not be restricted. Further, where the Applicant intends to acquire land or rights, or interfere with any of NGET's interests in land or NGET's apparatus, NGET will require appropriate protection.

NGET Land and Infrastructure Impacted

The documentation and plans submitted for the Project have been reviewed in relation to impacts on NGET's existing apparatus and land interests located within this area. NGET have a Category 1 and Category 2 interests in several plots including Plots 1/1c, 1/3c, 1/3d, 1/3e, 1/5a, 1/5c, 1/5d, 1/5e, 1/5f, 1/5h, 1/5ap, 1/5at, 1/5ay, 1/5az, 1/5aaf, 1/9, 1/34, 2/3b, 2/3c, 3/1a, 3/2a and 3/4.

NGET owns and operates a 275kV overhead line that is located within and in close proximity to the Order Limits for the Project. These assets form an essential part of the electricity transmission network in England and Wales. The details of the electricity assets are as follows:

- VJ 275kV OHL – Kearsley – Whitegate 1; Kearsley – Whitegate 2
- Associated cable fibres

Compulsory Acquisition Powers

NGET notes that the Book of Reference and Land Plans indicate that powers for the compulsory acquisition of land, temporary possession of land and extinguishment of rights are included over NGET's operational land and industrial apparatus. NGET strongly opposes any compulsory acquisition or extinguishment of rights over its operational land. Any such powers would cause serious detriment to NGET's ability to comply with its statutory duties.

Protective Provisions

NGET requires its protective provisions to be included within the draft Order to ensure that its interests are adequately protected and to ensure compliance with relevant safety standards, NGET is currently in the process of agreeing with the Applicant the protective provisions along with any supplementary agreements which may be required. NGET will keep the Examining Authority updated in relation to these discussions.

Summary

NGET reserves the right to make further representations as part of the examination process but in the meantime will negotiate with the Applicant with a view to reaching a satisfactory agreement.