

The Planning Inspectorate
National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Your Ref
TRO40011
Our Ref
ENB/SBC/005694.0379
Date
19 January 2021

By Email: Metrowest1@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dear Sir or Madam

**Proposed MetroWest Branch Line Order and Hinkley Point C Connection Project Order
Deadline 4 Submission - Comments on the Applicant's Updated Draft DCO
Interested Party Reference Number: 20025228**

We are instructed by National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (**NGET**) in relation to the interaction of North Somerset Council's (the **Applicant**) proposed MetroWest Phase 1 Order (the **Proposed Order**) and the National Grid (Hinkley Point C Connection Project) Order 2016 and Correction Order 2017 (the **HPCC Order**).

As the Examining Authority (the **ExA**) is aware, NGET submitted a relevant representation (**RR**) in relation to the Proposed Order in February 2020.

Since submission of its RR and the start of the Examination into the Proposed Order, NGET has been in correspondence with the Applicant in relation to various matters in connection with the interaction of the Proposed Order and the HPCC Order.

NGET's intention had been to reach agreement on the inclusion of Protective Provisions (**PPs**) within the draft DCO with the Applicant outside of the Examination process and it therefore did not attend the Compulsory Acquisition Hearing which took place on 4 December 2020. However, given the fact that the Examination is due to close in April 2021, and sufficient progress has not been made with regard to the PPs to date, NGET has instructed us to make written submissions to the ExA in this regard.

We note that the ExA's first round of written questions included the following question to NGET:

"CA.1.3 – Your RR [RR-020] makes reference to the need for the DCO to contain Protective Provisions to ensure that your interests are adequately protected and ensure compliance with

Registered Office

One Bartholomew Close
London
EC1A 7BL
DX 339401 London Wall

50/60 Station Road
Cambridge
CB1 2JH
DX 339601 Cambridge 24

The Anchorage
34 Bridge Street
Reading, RG1 2LU
DX 146420 Reading 21

Grosvenor House
Grosvenor Square
Southampton, SO15 2BE
DX 38516 Southampton 3

T +44 (0)345 222 9222

W www.bdbpitmans.com

relevant safety standards with particular reference to the installation of the new transmission line in relation to Hinkley Point C connection project. Please provide suggested wording.”

We apologise that an answer to the above written question was not submitted at Deadline 2 (23 November 2020). However, the form of PPs which NGET would propose are included within the DCO if made are now appended to this letter.

As set out in NGET’s RR, NGET enjoys rights and interests in land within and in close proximity to the proposed Order Limits which need to be protected in accordance with section 127 of the Planning Act 2008. NGET is the owner of the electricity transmission network and a statutory undertaker. NGET enjoys rights and powers to extend its undertaking by virtue of the HPCC Order. Pursuant to those rights and powers, NGET is embarking upon the construction of a new transmission line in excess of 55 kilometres in length. Construction of the new transmission line has commenced and it is anticipated that the works will be completed in mid-2025.

The proposed PPs are intended to protect NGET’s apparatus which will be installed as part of the HPCC project. Similar PPs have been included in previously made DCOs, including The Thames Water Utilities Limited (Thames Tideway Tunnel) Order 2014, The Norfolk Vanguard Offshore Wind Farm Order 2020 and The Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020.

We note from the Examination Timetable that dates have been reserved in the week commencing 1 March 2020 for any further hearings which might be required including a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing. Please note that we would be available to represent NGET at a further hearing at this time if any further clarification in relation to NGET’s interests are required by the ExA.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any further information.

Yours faithfully



BDB Pitmans LLP