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17<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Dear Catrin Ownen

**Proposed application by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) for a Development Consent Order for the proposed Norwich to Tilbury project, to reinforce the high voltage power network in East Anglia**

I write in my capacity of both District and County Councillor to object in the strongest possible terms to the second non-statutory consultation on the above proposal.

I have attended a great deal of public meetings and site visits on this subject and I have been contacted by a huge number of residents from Ardleigh, Lawford and Little Bromley who will be affected and hugely impacted by what you propose.

The damage you will do to the locality, environment, and many people's lives will be massive and it will take several generations to recover. The carbon output by the millions of tons of concrete that you will be using to shore up these pylons will take generations likewise to be off-set.

You have completely dismissed the under water options as being too expensive and unviable, so please explain to me how the Morocco xlinks project <https://xlinks.co/morocco-uk-power-project/> which seeks to transmit power through a massive 3,800km HVDC sub-sea cables be viable? Especially when it's compared to your minuscule 180km.

There is not one single local authority that is supportive of what you are trying to force upon our various communities; Tendring District Council along with all other authorities in Essex and many in Suffolk and Norfolk have all made representations to National Grid to strongly object.

If there was a degree of public support I would be more sympathetic to your proposals, but there simply isn't anyone who has spoken in favour of what you are trying to do.

Everyone, including a very vociferous group of East Anglia MPs, is absolutely baffled by why you have decided not to even investigate further the under water option.

The only change you have made from the first round of consultation last year, is to bury slightly more cable underground, but that would be equally detrimental to farmers, landowners, walkers and many, many residents who live along the proposed route.

Farmers will be forced to sterilise up to 10% of their land, and not only they will lose the income from lost crops in perpetuity, but the farcical compensation that you are proposing to offer is simply derisory.

In these uncertain times when war is still raging in Ukraine and grain supplies have been under such severe pressure for the past year with no real prospect of an early end to the conflict, the last thing you should be proposing is the loss of Grade 1 Agricultural Land.

Both Essex and Tendring Councils, as well as those who share our views, have robust Climate Change Plans in place with many initiatives already been rolled out in order to meet the Government's target of net zero emissions by 2050.

We all recognise that the way we generate, deliver, and use energy has to change and we are already on the right track of transitioning to clean, renewable energy generation which will provide cheaper and more secure energy. Both Tendring and Essex Councils have been promoting the provision of jobs in the construction, maintenance and servicing of the wind turbines and the potential for Harwich to play an important role in supporting that industry. I therefore fully support green and renewable energy and I for one am

considering investing in a solar panel project for my house to back up my beliefs.

You will have to demonstrate that you have fully investigated any alternative to transport energy under water as this will be challenged in the courts for years and years to come, which will be a terrible waste of finances that could be channeled to the alternative I have been describing.

You will also have to consider the effects of your proposals to many of my residents mental health well-being. This has been hanging over them for a long time now and for a much longer going forward.

You will be digging through one of most outstanding area of natural beauty, the Dedham Vale AONB which will be desecrated by your planned mass digging of its beautiful landscape; the immediate impacts in a visual sense and the recovery time for those habitats that will be disrupted will take a very long time to recover.

Besides all this, there is still a great deal of uncertainty within the farming community about how the proposals will affect their livelihoods. Concern around the legacy impacts on soil quality in terms of disturbance from energy being transported through the cables and implications for land drainage as well as well water, any data held on this would provide clarity.

Local residents and landowners have also questioned whether any data exists on the potential of future impacts on utilities services, given the extensive nature of the undergrounding proposals; and how is this going to be managed in terms of responsibilities and due diligence if other underground infrastructure is required.

The damage to Highway assets that will have to deal with the onslaught of construction traffic will be unmeasurable especially when any Highways authorities can ill afford to maintain what they need to, without the added damage that your proposal will render to its networks.

You have not engaged with local landowners and farmers in a meaningful way regarding the practical implications of the proposal and as I have already stated the level of compensation will never address the long term loss of their land.

In closing I strongly urge you to abandon these unsustainable and unacceptable plans, and come back with an underwater proposal that every one will support.

Yours sincerely

CLLr Giancarlo Guglielmi

Member for the Lawford, Manningtree, and Mistlewood Ward

Essex CC Member for Tendring Rural West

Chairman of the ECC's Development & Regulation Committee

Vice Chairman of the ECC's People and Family Committee