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Date: 6th October 2021

Dear Mr Stein,

Electricity System Operator (ESO) Open Letter on the Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR)

Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council are very grateful, for the update on the progress of the OTNR, that you published on 27 September¹, and are pleased with the progress this work has made to date. Furthermore, the Councils appreciate the opportunities that our officers have had, to engage effectively with your colleagues about this work, we look forward to further productive engagement in due course.

The Councils look forward to the publication of the Holistic Network Design (HND), expected in January 2022, as part of the pathway to 2030 workstream. Your letter also makes clear, that both demand and multi-purpose interconnectors, which are important project types on the Suffolk coast, are included within the HND.

The Councils also note that your letter provides additional clarification, regarding the scope of the Early Opportunities workstream, and that relevant current and planned projects will be identified, and the developers informed and invited to participate in the workstream. Although it is understood that participation in this workstream remains, currently, voluntary.

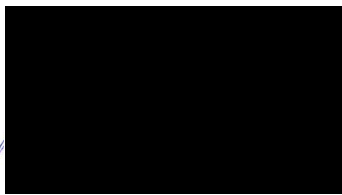
There is a wide definition of “in scope” projects for the Early Opportunities workstream, described in the letter, specifically:

“Any offshore projects which have previously been through the full CION process but have not achieved both planning consent and a Contract for Difference (or equivalent) will generally be considered to be within scope of the Early Opportunities workstream”

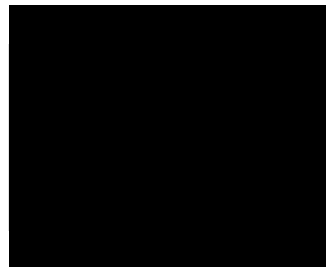
¹ <https://www.nationalgrideso.com/document/211251/download>

Therefore, in the interests of clarity, transparency, and public confidence in the OTNR, the Councils request the list of in-scope projects for the Early Opportunities workstream is published. If that is not possible for contractual or commercial reasons, we ask that the list of projects is made available to the Secretary of State, to properly inform decision making for consent, prior to promoters achieving a Contract for Difference. Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council appreciate the significant technical challenges that National Grid ESO has faced in bringing its contribution to the OTNR to this point. The Councils are grateful for the opportunities available for their effective engagement with the OTNR, however, they consider that clarity around the process is essential to maintain and improve public confidence in the OTNR.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Richard Rout.

Richard Rout
Cabinet Member for Environment and
Deputy Leader of Suffolk County Council

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Craig Rivett
Cabinet Member for Economic Development and
Deputy Leader of East Suffolk Council

cc. Dr Thérèse Coffey MP