

11/04/2022

**National Grid ESO response to Ofgem's consultations on proposed works at Coalburn Substation, Inch Cape Offshore Wind Farm and the Eastern HVDC Link and offshore wind generation at Branxton Substation**

Dear Eliska,

We welcome the opportunity to respond to your three consultations related to the Medium Sized Investment Project proposed by SP Transmission (SPT).

National Grid ESO is the electricity system operator for Great Britain. We balance electricity around the country second by second to ensure that the right amount of electricity is where it's needed, when it's needed – always keeping supply and demand in perfect balance. As Great Britain transitions towards a low-carbon future, our mission is to enable the sustainable transformation of the energy system and ensure the delivery of reliable, affordable energy for all consumers.

We use our unique perspective and independent position to facilitate market-based solutions which deliver value for consumers.

We support Ofgem's view of the needs case for each proposal as outlined below.

**Consultation on the proposed works to enable connection of the Eastern HVDC Link and offshore wind generation at Branxton Substation**

We are pleased to be able to provide a response on Ofgem's consultation on SPT's plans to carry out infrastructure work to enable connection of the Eastern High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) cable link and offshore wind generation at Branxton Substation.

This work is a key enabler for the first two Eastern HVDC link projects (E2DC and E4D3), and for connection of a large offshore windfarm. We note that the Eastern Links have received a strong and long-term signal to proceed in the Network Options Assessment (NOA) for several years, and most recently in the NOA 2021/22 published in January 2022<sup>1</sup>. We have also contributed towards the Large Onshore Transmission Investment (LOTI) assessment of Eastern HVDC Initial Needs Case (2019) and Final Needs Case (2022) in collaboration with all three Transmission Owners, which demonstrates a strong needs case and significant benefit to the GB consumer for the first two Eastern HVDC links between Torness to Hawthorn Pit and Peterhead to Drax commissioned on time.

We support the Ofgem view of the needs case, and strongly support the development of the infrastructure needed to enable other reinforcements (e.g., Eastern HVDC links), and to connect zero-carbon generation as we move at pace towards meeting our net zero targets.

**Consultation on the proposed works to enable connection of additional onshore wind capacity at Coalburn Substation**

We are pleased to be able to provide a response on Ofgem's consultation on the proposed works to enable connection of additional onshore wind capacity at Coalburn Substation.

This work will provide additional connection capacity at the key Coalburn 400kV substation in south central Scotland, on one of the main circuits connecting Scotland and England. There is significant forecast growth generation in renewable generation across GB and in southern Scotland, as shown in the Future Energy

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nationalgrideso.com/research-publications/network-options-assessment-noa>

Scenarios. Specifically, the TEC Register<sup>2</sup> indicated three projects connecting at Coalburn substation in the coming years with over 1GW of capacity.

We support the Ofgem view of the needs case, and strongly support the development of the infrastructure needed to connect zero-carbon generation as we move at pace towards meeting our net zero targets.

### **Consultation on the proposed works to enable connection of the Inch Cape Offshore Wind Farm**

We are pleased to be able to provide a response on Ofgem's consultation on proposed works to enable connection of the Inch Cape Offshore Wind Farm

The work at Cockenzie substation is required to connect Inch Cape Offshore Wind Farm, and other net zero generation. As part of the connection process, the application went through the Connection and Infrastructure Options Note (CION) process. In this assessment, we considered several entry points including Arbroath, Tealing, Branxton, Cockenzie, Torness, Crystal Rig and Blyth. The outcome of the report recommends a connection for Inch Cape Offshore Wind Farm at Cockenzie 275kV Substation as the most economic and efficient solution.

We support the Ofgem view of the needs case, and strongly support the development of the infrastructure needed to connect zero-carbon generation – specifically Inch Cape Offshore Wind Farm - as we move at pace towards meeting our net zero targets.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss any of the points raised within this response. Should you require further information or clarity on any of the points outlined in our response then please contact Paul Wakeley in the first instance at [Paul.Wakeley@nationalgrideso.com](mailto:Paul.Wakeley@nationalgrideso.com).

Our response is not confidential.

Yours sincerely

Julian Leslie

Head of Networks

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<sup>2</sup> [https://data.nationalgrideso.com/connection-registers/transmission-entry-capacity-tec-register/r/tec\\_register](https://data.nationalgrideso.com/connection-registers/transmission-entry-capacity-tec-register/r/tec_register)