

Email to: eliska.antosova@ofgem.gov.uk

7 April 2022

EDF's response to the Consultation on the proposed works to enable connection of the Eastern HVDC link and offshore wind generation at Branxton Substation

EDF is the UK's largest producer of low carbon electricity. EDF operates low carbon nuclear power stations, is building the first of a new generation of nuclear plants and currently has an application with the Secretary of State for a second new nuclear power station, Sizewell C. With around five million electricity and gas customer accounts, including residential and business users, EDF aims to help Britain achieve net zero by building a smarter energy future that will support delivery of net zero carbon emissions, including through digital innovations and new customer offerings that encourage the transition to low carbon electric transport and heating.

As a key part of EDF, EDF Renewables is one the UK's leading renewable energy companies, specialising in wind power, solar and battery storage technology. EDF Renewables is making a substantial contribution to achieving Scotland's net zero ambitions, with almost 500 MW in operation over eight onshore wind farms and through the construction of the 450 MW Neart na Gaoithe (NnG) offshore wind farm and the 30 MW West Benhar onshore wind farm in North Lanarkshire.

We welcome the much needed network investment to be able to accommodate the forecast growth in renewable generation driven by the UK's legislated target to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. However, we would like to highlight that the proposed onshore Eastern HVDC link will cross the existing onshore NnG 220kV export cables. As well as some risk during construction there may also be a mutual heating effect on each of the cables at the crossing points. The additional heat from the Eastern HVDC link needs to be taken into account during the design phase to avoid derating of the NnG export circuits. It is important that the NnG project is specifically consulted in the design stage for the cable crossing to mitigate such risk.

Should you wish to discuss any of the issues raised in our response or have any queries, please contact me or Matthew Streeter at <u>matt.streeter@edf-re.uk</u>.

Yours sincerely,

AMCorp

Mark Cox Head of Nuclear & Wholesale Policy and Regulation

EDF Energy 90 Whitfield Street London W1T 4EZ edfenergy.com

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