



Eliska Antosova  
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By email: [eliska.antosova@ofgem.gov.uk](mailto:eliska.antosova@ofgem.gov.uk)

**08/04/2022**

Dear Eliska,

**Re: RES response to Eastern HVDC link works at Branxton Substation Consultation**

**Introduction to RES**

RES is the world's largest independent renewable energy company with operations across Europe, the Americas and Asia-Pacific. A British company, at the forefront of renewable energy development for 40 years, RES is responsible for more than 22GW of renewable energy capacity and energy storage projects worldwide. RES is active in a range of renewable energy technologies including onshore wind, offshore, solar and energy storage.

In the UK, RES has developed and/or constructed 1GW of operating wind generation capacity. We provide support services (AM and O&M) to a global operational portfolio of 7.5GW of renewable projects and energy storage for a range of third-party clients. We play a critical role in ensuring the provision electricity with our teams on the ground and in our 24/7/365 control centre responsible for keeping 10% (3GW) of the UK's operating renewable capacity running.

RES wants to play an active part in the UK's energy future, ensuring our projects contribute to decarbonising the energy system at least cost to the consumer, in line with RES' vision to be a leader in the transition to a future where everyone has access to affordable zero carbon energy. We therefore welcome this opportunity to respond to the "Consultation on the proposed works to enable connection of the HVDC link and offshore wind generation at Branxton Substation" document of 14 March 2022 ("the Branxton Substation consultation").

We welcome the Ofgem's minded to position set out in the Branxton Substation consultation and encourage Ofgem to process further reopeners relating to transmission investment essential for the enabling of Net Zero at least cost to the energy consumer in the most timely and efficient manner possible. Our responses to the specific questions raised by Ofgem are set out below.

Question 1: Do you agree with our view of the validity of the needs case for the Branxton MSIP project?

Yes. The case for efficient grid integration of onshore wind in Scotland and offshore wind is compelling both from the perspective of enabling Net Zero and also of reducing costs to current and future energy consumers.

Question 2: Do you agree with our technical assessment of the range of solutions to meet the needs case?

Yes, although we encourage Ofgem to fully consider the benefits of strategic anticipatory investment in light of the need for further increases in renewable electricity generation capacity in Scotland before fully discounting Option 5.

Question 3: Do you agree with our minded-to view of the solution proposed by SPT?

In light of the evidence provided, yes.

We would be happy to answer any further questions on our evidence or provide additional information if required.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Smart', enclosed within a thin rectangular border.

**Patrick Smart**  
**Energy Networks Director**

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