
Dr Paul Wakeley
Paul.Wakeley@nationalgrideso.com
www.nationalgrideso.com

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National Grid ESO response to the Dinorwig-Pentir consultation on the project's Final Needs Case and suitability for competition

Dear James,

We are pleased to be able to provide a response on Ofgem's consultation on the LOTI final needs case for the proposed 'Dinorwig-Pentir cable and substation replacement project' submitted by National Grid Electricity Transmission.

As the Electricity System Operator (ESO) for Great Britain, we are in a privileged position at the heart of the energy system, balancing electricity supply and demand second by second. As the UK moves towards its 2050 net zero target, 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.

The Dinorwig-Pentir cable and substation replacement is driven by the asset health condition of two 400kV cable circuits at Dinorwig in North Wales and the 400kV Dinorwig substation. The replacement will lead to a significant reduction in the SF6 leakage, a potent greenhouse gas, while increasing the reliability of the assets thus reducing constraint costs incurred from the circuits being on outage. The location of these circuits is such that the asset replacement works need to be coordinated with the generation in the region. This is key to ensure that the works are sequenced in the most efficient way that ensures all parties are least impacted thus achieving the best consumer value. As the ESO, we have contributed economic analysis to this needs case for NGET: we have considered the operating costs incurred across the various outage strategies to conduct asset replacement works while minimizing constraint costs and the lack of access to ancillary services. Our economic analysis sees a strong need for this work to continue as planned where the works are aligned with all parties thus completing the replacement. We welcome Ofgem's decision to proceed with our recommendation.

We strongly support the Dinorwig-Pentir asset replacement works, as this is a key step in ensuring we have a safe, reliable and efficient system to facilitate the transition towards a net zero energy system.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss any of the points raised within this response. Should you require further information or clarity please contact Griffin John, Power System Engineer at Griffin.John@nationalgrideso.com in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

Dr Paul Wakeley

Strategic Network Development Senior Manager