

Julian Leslie

julian.leslie@nationalgrideso.com

www.nationalgrideso.com

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National Grid ESO response to the 'Consultation on our minded-to decision and draft impact assessment on the initial findings of the Electricity Transmission Network Planning Review'

Dear Konark and Dayna,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the 'Consultation on our minded-to decision and draft impact assessment on the initial findings of the Electricity Transmission Network Planning Review'.

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 are proud of the role we have played in decarbonising the electricity system so far, including in our leading roles in network development. We have continued to provide key recommendations about network investments under uncertainty through our *Electricity Ten Year Statement* and *Network Options Assessment* processes, and recently delivered our first *Holistic Network Design*, with a UK first coordinated offshore network design. We are pleased to see the recognition of the need for our role to develop further to meet the challenges of the net zero transition.

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

- We support Ofgem's minded-to decision that there should be a new planning process called the CSNP that will incorporate all aspects of load related planning for the entire National Electricity Transmission System (NETS) (including offshore), as well as the incorporation of interconnection.
- We agree that the delivery of the CSNP should be led by the FSO and the ESO recognise that we need to grow our skills and expertise to deliver all aspects of the CSNP. We are already making steps to grow our organisation to meet this expectation.
- We look forward to working with Ofgem to develop the details of delivering a CSNP and for the FSO to lead the overall process of delivering a CSNP. We also agree that there will be opportunities for the ESO to have a coordinating role, for example between TOs and third parties for generating options for non-strategic investments.
- We welcome the opportunity to bring our expertise to the development process of the CSNP methodology. We will do this by continuing to lead on Topic 2 (Analysis and decision making of load-related processes) and Topic 3 (Breadth of solutions covering whole system and innovation) of the ETNPR. We have already outlined potential solutions and successfully lead two stakeholder workgroups focussed on specific areas of network planning.
- We have made significant progress in developing proposals for the CSNP framework and are planning to develop these further by continuing this series of focussed stakeholder working groups.

We will guide and lead stakeholders through the strengths and weaknesses of all options available to us with the intent of developing an end-to-end network planning system that will meet the ambitions of the CSNP.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss any of the points raised within this response. Should you require further information or clarity please contact Paul Wakeley Paul.Wakeley@nationalgrideso.com in the first instance. Our response is not confidential.

Yours sincerely,

Julian Leslie

Head of Networks