



Our Reference:
OFGEM240909

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Date:
Monday 9th Sept. 2024

By Email: riioelectricitytransmission@ofgem.gov.uk
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets
10 South Colonnade, Canary Wharf
London E14 4PU
FAO James Dunshea

Dear James,

Statutory consultation on Norwich to Tilbury Early Construction Funding application and corresponding proposed modification to Special Condition 3.41 of NGET's electricity transmission licence

North Falls Offshore Wind Farm ("NFOWF") is a 50/50 joint venture between RWE and SSE, two of the UK's most established and experienced utility companies, and is a proposed extension to the southern array of the operational Greater Gabbard Offshore Wind Farm. NFOWF will provide new jobs, boost the local economy and provide other community benefits, as well as producing green electricity as part of the UK's goal to achieve net zero by 2050 and a decarbonised power system by 2030.

NFOWF submitted its Development Consent Order (DCO) application on 26 July 2024 and was accepted by the Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, on 22 August 2024 and is now in the pre examination phase of the National Infrastructure consenting process. NFOWF has a grid connection agreement with National Grid ESO for connection of up to 1 gigawatt (GW) of capacity by October 2030 at the proposed East Anglia Connection Node. The East Anglia Connection Node is part of National Grid's Norwich to Tilbury project, which is a key part of National Grid's Great Grid Upgrade.

NFOWF welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation regarding early construction funding (ECF) for the Norwich to Tilbury project.

We support Ofgem's minded-to decision to approve the request. Norwich to Tilbury has been identified as nationally significant infrastructure; it is in the Holistic Network Design (HND) as an 'essential' option and it has received consecutive 'proceed' signals (for new 400kV circuits) in the Network Options Assessment (NOA) 2020/21 and the NOA refresh.

We agree that funding for the proposed activities will support accelerating project delivery and will also help mitigate risk of delay to delivery. Delivery of grid infrastructure is crucial in ensuring the UK is on track to achieve its targets of decarbonising the electricity system by 2030, and reaching net zero by 2050.

The new onshore transmission infrastructure between Norwich to Tilbury is vital for network reinforcement, as well as connecting up multiple offshore wind farms in East Anglia.

Yours sincerely,

Andy Paine
Project Director
North Falls Offshore Wind Farm