



THE BRISTOL PORT COMPANY

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David Gray,
Chairman
OFGEM
9 Millbank
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Dear Mr Gray

HINKLEY C CONNECTION PROJECT BY NATIONAL GRID

Recent press articles have highlighted the concerns expressed by OFGEM relating to National Grid's proposal to link Hinkley Point C to Seabank Power Station.

The Bristol Port Company has a significant interest in the project since a substantial part of the route is through our land at Royal Portbury Dock and Avonmouth Dock. There are 19 no. pylons proposed within our estate, 15% of the total for the entire overhead link.

The Port has had an extremely expensive and time-consuming involvement in the project since it was first conceived. We have been disappointed in the engagement process adopted by National Grid (NG) and their various advisors. We requested that our needs be accommodated by National Grid for the routing, cable height and tower construction but they were not addressed and thus we objected to the proposals during the Development Consent Order process.

Whilst our issues with NG are not your concern at this time, we wish to highlight the Port's position on tower construction that featured as a part of our case presented to the Planning Inspectorate and that might be relevant to your assessment of costs at this time.

There are several existing overhead electricity distribution routes in the area of the Port and our immediate hinterland. The towers are all lattice construction. We remain very concerned at the proposed use of T-pylons across a part of our dock estate and it was an issue that we raised with the Planning Inspectorate. Aside from the issue of aesthetics and the construction of a new form of tower in a landscape already dotted with lattice towers, we consider that T-pylons are an extremely expensive and potentially dangerous solution to a problem that is already adequately addressed with an available, inexpensive and stable resolution. We note that ground conditions within the Port are extremely challenging and piles are the only foundation for any structure that needs to stay in place. The four legs of a lattice tower can

each stand on a single pile bearing on the bedrock beneath the soft alluvial material across our Estate. We understand a T-pylon requires significant piling (at least 4 no. large diameter piles) but also a substantial r.c. slab to transfer not just the vertical load of the tower but also the huge variable forces from the single column as it accommodates the forces from the wind, cables and potential cable failure. A lattice tower is a much more stable structure. Furthermore, T-pylons and the associated arrangement of the cables sterilise a wider corridor than the lattice tower arrangement.

We query whether in considering the capital and maintenance costs predicted for the HCCP if OFGEM will reconsider the use of T pylons and abandon them to use the lower-cost, proven lattice tower construction?

We trust that receipt of this correspondence is entirely acceptable and if we can add further detail or a meeting at your offices would be beneficial please do not hesitate to respond.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "John C. Chaplin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'J' and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John C Chaplin BSc CEng FICE
Director of External Affairs & Special Projects