

17 December 2020

Dear Mr Gallant

Thank you for your email dated 10 December 2020.

Whilst I welcome the confirmation that the Council's position has not changed, regrettably that was not reflected at the hearings nor by a number of statements the Council has made both orally and in writing. Indeed your email below contains a statement which cannot be supported by the evidence and which is an unnecessary concession to National Grid and Scottish Power. This is contrary to a position of "objection".

The following are two examples of the Council failing to follow through on its democratically agreed position of objection but there are others.

1. At the hearings at no point did the word "object" pass the lips of the Council's barrister. Rather embarrassingly it was a member of Aldeburgh Town Council who had to point out that East Suffolk Council had formally resolved to object to the applications.

2. The statement below that:

"the Council accepts that the connection offer that has been made to SPR complies with the CION process",

is manifestly incorrect. I do not know on what basis the Council can make that judgement. Is the Council an expert on National Grid's CION process? This statement is of course very helpful to National Grid and Scottish Power and is inconsistent with a position of objection.

Further National Grid, from our experience, has been highly secretive about how it conducts its CION process and the information it relies upon to reach its conclusions.

Therefore can the Council please advise on what basis the Council has accepted that National Grid's connection offer was compliant with the CION process.

I do not want to get into technicalities here but there are also the related issues that the National Grid CION process for EA1N and EA2 (i) did not comply with the Electricity Act 1989 and (ii) as a site selection process for an NSIP it is not compliant with planning law and policy. The Council has failed to address these

issues. Please note these issues are not fanciful we have had expert legal advice on these matters as your Planning Department is aware.

You and your colleagues may wonder why so many people in the community are devoting substantial amounts of time, effort and money to resist Scottish Power's and National Grid's proposals. One of the reasons is they lack confidence in East Suffolk's Council's resolve in resisting these proposals. Based on the past few weeks that lack of confidence looks justified.

I look forward to hearing from you in terms of how the Council intends to remedy its position and take a far more robust approach to objecting to these Applications.

Best

Michael

Michael Mahony
SASES (sases.org.uk)