

16 July 2023

URGENT Grant Shapps must meet OFFSET MPs BEFORE RECESS

To: Secretary.State@energysecurity.gov.uk
Cc: beiscorrespondence@beis.gov.uk, shappsg@parliament.uk,
Minister.Stuart@energysecurity.gov.uk, Minister.Bowie@energysecurity.gov.uk,
therese.coffey.mp@parliament.uk

To the Right Honourable Grant Shapps, MP

Dear Mr Shapps,

It is vital that you meet Sir Bernard Jenkin and the OFFSET MPs, this week before the summer recess, to discuss the evidence that an offshore grid for East Anglia is now imperative. Under current plans everyone loses.

An integrated offshore grid for East Anglia would give cost savings for consumers of over £2billion vs current plans, and vastly reduced negative impact on environment and communities (National Grid ESO conclude this in their December 2020 [Offshore Coordination Phase 1 Final Report](#) p.29). All the other leading European wind-power nations have concluded that an integrated offshore grid is the best solution.

Bringing power onshore on the Suffolk coast and taking power overland through East Anglian countryside makes no sense. The best and most cost-effective solution is to take power from where it is generated using subsea cables to where it is needed (National Grid's President for UK Strategic Infrastructure Carl Trowell, states precisely this argument in a [4 July press release](#) for Eastern Green Link 2). In addition, bringing power onshore at brownfield sites allows economic regeneration to happen in these places, as opposed to economic and environmental destruction.

ScottishPower's projects can pool with LionLink offshore and that power can be carried via subsea cables to a brownfield site closer to London. Similarly, North Falls and Five Estuaries can pool with Nautilus at an offshore platform and go to Grain.

YOU have it in your power to change current plans and pivot to the better solution of an integrated offshore grid. Sir Bernard and colleagues are ready to discuss how this can be achieved.

We urge you in the strongest terms to meet with the East Anglian OFFSET MPs this week.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Gilmore

on behalf of The SEAS Team

Thank you for your email in relation to the proposed OffSET meeting with Grant Shapps. I'm fully supportive of such a meeting taking place and have spoken to Grant personally, urging a meeting be diarised as soon as possible.

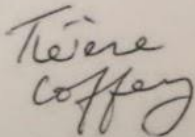
In the meantime, I have been continuing my campaign for Bradwell and was heartened to see from the Minister's recent letter that a re-assessment will now take place.

As you know, it is now likely that the Nautilus project will be connected via the Isle of Grain, potentially from a modular offshore grid combining North Falls and Five Estuaries. I'm campaigning for this to be done for the other connections (Lionlink and Sealink), with a further modular offshore grid ideally coming into the brownfield site of Bradwell. I know that is what SEAS is pushing for too.

I have, therefore, also recently written to the Chief Executive of National Grid, John Pettigrew – asking to meet him and other senior National Grid representatives to discuss this.

I will come back to you as soon as I have more information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Therese Coffey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T' and 'C'.