

***** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE *****

SEAS APPEAL JUDICIAL REVIEW DECISION

This is a wind energy infrastructure story but also has wider political implications.

We (SEAS Community Group) are disappointed that the Judicial Review judgment from the High Court has gone against us and our arguments, attempting to overturn the planning approval for the ScottishPower's EA1N and EA2 substations and National Grid's substation, near Friston and Aldeburgh in Suffolk.

We have reviewed the judgment carefully and further to discussions with our legal team we have decided to proceed with an Appeal.

We have been disappointed before in this battle and successfully turned things around, so we will continue to challenge our case through the Courts.

Our campaign for an offshore grid bringing power onshore at brownfield sites closer to where energy is needed, continues to gather pace as we join forces with more community groups across Britain including Essex, Norfolk, Suffolk Pylons, and our position is also supported by the influential OFFSET group of East Anglian MPs. This is a David vs Goliath struggle, but they have been won before by determined communities and we have the truth on our side, as concluded by National Grid ESO in their December 2020 report, where an offshore grid is the recommended solution for East Anglia.

We are clear that an offshore grid for East Anglia has few if any disadvantages compared to current plans, with benefits including:

- Value for money (£2bn cheaper)
- Efficiency of infrastructure assets required (50% fewer)
- Protection of the significant nature based tourism economy plus allowing for economic regeneration at brownfield sites
- Vastly reduced impact on the environment and biodiversity
- Vastly reduced negative impact on communities
- All achievable in similar timescales to current plans

To those speaking on behalf of the developers who are giving misleading costings and disingenuous reasons for adopting current outdated plans, we invite these stakeholders to sit around a table with us and OFFSET MPs, to discuss the relative merits of an offshore grid. Belgium, Holland, Germany, Denmark and all other leading wind power countries have embraced the offshore grid model, introducing offshore platforms for pooling wind energy and delivering it to brownfield sites closer to demand. Only Britain is sticking its head in the sand.

It's time to pivot to the modern, smarter solution. An offshore grid delivering energy to brownfield sites closer to demand, is now an economic, environmental, social and moral imperative. Even National Grid in their recent 4 July press release for Eastern

Green Link 2, would seem to agree with our argument, with National Grid's President for UK strategic infrastructure Carl Trowell stating:

"This new infrastructure will connect more clean, renewable energy from where it's generated to where it's needed, helping contribute to lower energy bills over the long-term and make the UK's energy more self-sufficient."

The Secretary of State for Energy Security, Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP should halt these nonsensical plans and work together with the Electricity System Operator, Ofgem and developers National Grid and Scottish Power, to deliver an offshore grid for East Anglia, which is the best solution for the benefit of the whole of Britain.