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By Email Only

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Dear Ms Mignano

SCOTTISH POWER – EAST ANGLIA ONE NORTH AND EAST ANGLIA TWO

I would like to thank the Examining Authorities for their prompt action in providing clarity as to the position next week in their Procedural Decision yesterday.

In that decision we note the reference to the need to press ahead with the preparation of Statements of Common Ground. One of the matters we were going to raise at the Preliminary Meetings (as set out in our letter of 9 March 2020) was to request that we be involved in the preparation of those statements in areas where we have instructed experts, namely landscape, noise, heritage and flooding. This may help to reduce differences in expert opinion later in the examination process. Therefore given the postponement of the Preliminary Meetings we would ask that such a request be considered by the Examining Authorities now notwithstanding the postponement of the Preliminary Meetings.

I have noted the more general PINS guidance published today that all hearings and Preliminary Meetings are postponed until further notice. As you are aware the EA1N and EA2 proposals are matters of the greatest concern to the local community given the serious impact they will have on their lives and on the environment in which they live. Clearly this was recognised by the Examining Authorities in the draft examination timetables by scheduling seven issue specific hearings and three open floor hearings in respect of each project. Such hearings would have allowed members of the community to fully express their views orally in a manner and in a forum for which written representations cannot be a substitute. This is a particularly relevant issue since very few, if any, members of the community have experience in making written representations on complex planning matters relating to major infrastructure projects. Therefore, in the Examining Authorities' review of all examination procedures, we would suggest it is important that the further procedural proposals provide for at least the same level and ease of community engagement with the same level and ease of interaction with the Examining Authorities, the Applicants, the Local Authorities and other Statutory Consultees as well as other Interested Parties.

It is appreciated that the current circumstances are unprecedented and pose a number of challenges, but we do think it is vital that the community has a proper voice which is capable of being heard, even if that will delay the consideration of the applications.

Yours sincerely

Michael Mahony