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To: The applicant, interested parties,
affected persons and category 3 persons

Our Ref: EN010151

Date: 19 December 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) – Rule 9

Application by Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited for an order granting development consent for the Beacon Fen Energy Park Project

Procedural Decision regarding the applicant's request to make changes to the application

I am writing to inform you of Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority (ExA) in relation to the applicant's submission of a request for the ExA to accept amendments to the above mentioned application, known as a change application.

The change application follows from the applicant's notification of proposed change to the Development Consent Order (DCO) application [[AS-029](#)] accepted by the ExA on the 7 November 2025. The ExA replied to the applicant's notification in its letter of 20 November 2025 [[PD-012](#)] in which it set out its preliminary view, based on the information provided by the applicant at that time, in relation to the proposed change and what type of consultation, if any, would be required.

The change application was submitted to the ExA on the 17 December 2025, alongside the information requested by the ExA in line with PINs guidance for [Step 4](#), namely:

- A confirmed description of the proposed change;
- A confirmed statement setting out the reasons and need for making the change;
- A Change Request Application Index listing the revisions to each document and plan as a result of the change;
- Statement of impact on the ability to secure consent or licences for the project;
- Clean and tracked version of the draft DCO;
- An updated version of the Book of Reference and the Land Plans to reflect changes outside of the Infrastructure Planning (Compulsory Acquisition) Regulations 2010 (the CA Regulations);

- A change request Environmental Statement Addendum confirming no new or different significant environmental effects have been confirmed;
- A consultation report confirming who and how the applicant has carried out voluntary consultation and copies of all consultation responses received.

The ExA has reviewed this information submitted by the applicant and, in accordance with the [Planning Inspectorate's Guidance](#) (the PINs Guidance), the ExA must now decide whether to accept or reject the change application.

Summary of the proposed change application

The change application comprises a change to the proposed extension to the Bicker Fen Substation following from continued engagement between the applicant and National Grid Electricity Transmission plc. The new design of the proposed extension includes the construction of a new overhead line (OHL) tower of up to 56.2 metres (m) in height with 4 legs supported on a square excavation of up to 7m by 7m wide and up to 5m deep. In addition it also includes new 400kV cabling, modifications in the design of either or both tower contained in work No. 5C, construction of new access to extension and tower, extension to temporary laydown to an area that is largely existing hardstanding and vegetation removal and infilling to the existing drainage pond adjacent to the Substation to allow it to be used for construction.

The applicant confirms that the proposed change does not alter the order limits of the original DCO application and that it does not include a request for additional powers of compulsory acquisition. As such, the applicant believes that the requirements of the CA Regulations do not apply to this change request.

Having reviewed the information now submitted in support of the change application, the ExA has made the decisions set out below.

Procedural Decisions

I have assessed the applicant's request in line with guidance set out in the Planning Act 2008: Examination stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects¹ dated April 2024, the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) and the CA Regulations² and have made the following Procedural Decisions:

Whether to accept the proposed change

The ExA agrees with the applicant that the proposed change is not so material as to constitute a materially different project and considers that the proposed change does not result in the project being different in nature or substance to that which was originally applied for.

Having reviewed the information submitted, the ExA is also of the view that the proposed change does not invoke the requirements of the CA Regulations and, as such, the applicant was not required to carry out additional statutory consultation. However, the ExA does note that the applicant has carried out voluntary consultation on the proposed

¹ [Planning Act 2008: Examination stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects - GOV.UK](#)

² [The Infrastructure Planning \(Compulsory Acquisition\) Regulations 2010](#)

change so as to ensure that key stakeholders, including interested parties and the local community, are aware of the changes and had an opportunity to make comments and representations on the change request.

The applicant's submission in relation to the Environmental Impact Assessment concludes that the proposed change does not generate new or different likely significant effects. I concur with this view and I am content that the environmental impact assessment's conclusions on significance of effects remains the same. I have also concluded that the proposed changes would make no difference to the outcome of a Habitats Regulations Assessment.

In light of the above and considering the information submitted by the applicant in support of the change request, the ExA has decided to accept the proposed changes to the application and is writing to confirm its decision.

The ExA does note concerns raised by prescribed consultees on the change request, as detailed in Tables 5.1 and 5.2 of the Change Request Consultation Report [[CR-026](#)], which will be reflected at ExQ3 with the ExA likely to ask for a progress update at that stage.

The ExA has issued this advice in line with the PINS Guidance and has taken into consideration issues of fairness and natural justice.

If you have any questions about the content of this letter, please contact the Beacon Fen Energy Park Planning Inspectorate Case Team on BeaconFen@planninginspectorate.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully,

Andre Pinto

Andre Pinto
Examining Authority

This communication does not constitute legal advice.

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