

Subject: Nautilus Interconnector Project Update – December 2024

Content:

Dear Planning Inspectorate (PINS),

Update on National Grid Ventures' Nautilus Interconnector Project – December 2024

National Grid Ventures (NGV) communicated with you in July 2024 regarding the new PINS pre-application service, where we advised that once a final regulatory position was known from Ofgem that we would provide you with a comprehensive update regarding the Nautilus Interconnector Project. Following the conclusion of Ofgem's consultation and publication of their Initial Project Assessment (IPA) on 12 November 2024, we can now update you on the status of the project and next steps that we propose.

Background

By way of background, we have been investigating the potential for Nautilus to connect to Great Britain on the Isle of Grain (Grain). In July, the regulator, Ofgem, published its Initial Project Assessment (IPA) that it was minded not to approve our proposal to connect in Isle of Grain due to the potential costs associated with upgrading the grid infrastructure around Grain to facilitate the project.

This early assessment is referred to as Ofgem's 'minded to' position. We felt that this assessment underestimated the strategic value and wider benefits of the project, both in terms of Nautilus' ability to strengthen the UK's energy security and meet our decarbonisation goals. As a result of our feedback, as well as that of other interested parties, Ofgem has since reviewed and now approved the project, and we have taken the decision to connect the project at Grain.

Ofgem's approval of Nautilus' IPA is welcome news, and an important step towards having the regulatory certainty we need to build this project. The build-out of new energy infrastructure, especially interconnectors, will provide businesses and consumers with access to cheaper, cleaner electricity in the south east and beyond. Consumer demand for energy is set to double in the next 25 years and we need to totally decarbonise our power system by 2030. Nautilus will help ensure we have enough energy to meet this need both now and in 2050.

Community and stakeholder feedback has been essential to the evolution of Nautilus. We have always thought that the Isle of Grain presented the best location for Nautilus given it is a hub for energy infrastructure and has the potential to offer the shortest offshore cable route to Belgium.

Next Steps

Now that Ofgem has approved Nautilus, we will pursue the project at Grain where consenting mechanisms for the Project are to be confirmed. We therefore will not be engaging with PINS for pre-application activities at this time.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to be in touch.

Yours sincerely,

1-3 Strand
London WC2N 5EH

Freephone: 0800 783 2855
Email: info@nautilus.nationalgrid.com
www.nationalgrid.com

nationalgrid

Phil Spain

Project Director

On Behalf of Nautilus Project – National Grid Ventures

Freephone: 08081 699 822

Freepost: FREEPOST NAUTILUS INTERCONNECTOR

Email: info@nautilus.nationalgrid.com

CC: Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery Team, DESNZ