



The Great Grid Upgrade

Sea Link

Sea Link

Volume 9: Examination Submissions

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BY EMAIL ONLY

4th August 2025

Procedural Decision Follow Up Letter

The Planning Act 2008 (as amended) section 89(3)

Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission (the applicant) for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Sea Link Project

I write further to my letter dated 24th July 2025 responding to your Section 89 letter requesting further information in relation to the Sea Link DCO Examination.

As you will be aware the Examining Authority requested several additional pieces of information from National Grid in relation to the proposed 'Friston' substation, the majority of which we were able to submit to you 24th July 2025, with the remainder to be submitted in September 2025.

As set out in my letter, National Grid are engaged in regular meetings with Scottish Power Renewables (SPR) to develop the detailed design of the SPR consented Friston substation, with the intention of submitting the information required to discharge the relevant requirements pursuant to the SPR DCOs in Autumn 2025.

During Summer 2025, engagement started in respect of the draft landscaping and drainage proposals that will be submitted to discharge the SPR DCO requirements pertaining to the substations near Friston consented under those SPR consents (being two SPR substations and one National Grid transmission substation). This includes engagement with landowners and local planning authorities affected by the National Grid Substation included in both the SPR and Sea Link applications. Therefore, at present there are plans on matters such as

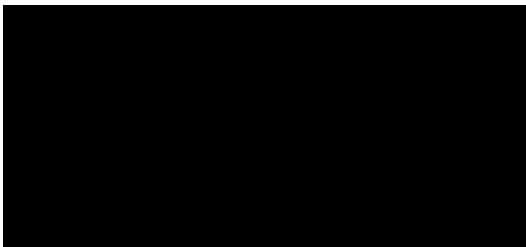
landscaping and drainage which are not yet publicly available, but have been seen by some of the key stakeholders and Interested Parties commenting on the Sea Link DCO application. National Grid is very conscious of the complexity associated with numerous projects and overlapping consents and how difficult this is to understand, particularly for third parties. We are therefore keen not to compound this by submitting comparisons based on the plans in the original SPR application, when the situation is currently evolving in maturity. Conversely, once more detailed plans are publicly available pursuant to the SPR DCO discharge processes referred to above, it will be possible to achieve greater alignment between the detailed plans (as opposed to parameters which are as per our DCO application) for Sea Link and those being submitted by SPR pursuant to the two SPR DCOs, than it is at present.

Related and in parallel to this, National Grid are presently engaged in a tender process to appoint contractors to construct Friston Substation pursuant to the SPR consent ('Scenario one' as described in the Environmental Statement, which as the SPR process moves forward, becomes even more certain).

We would like the further information that we are going to submit to be as comprehensive and as helpful as possible to the Examining Authority, and to other participants in the DCO process. Therefore, in order to allow the design process to evolve, to avoid wider stakeholder uncertainty, and also to have fuller contractor input into the design of Friston substation, we propose that the further information is submitted to you at some point ahead of the start of the Examination rather than in September 2025. We believe that this approach will offer yourselves, as the Examining Authority into our application, more mature and certain data, which we hope will assist you.

I trust that this confirmation is satisfactory but would be happy to discuss further with you.

Yours sincerely,



Senior Project Manager
For and on behalf of National Grid Electricity Transmission plc

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