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(Email only)

MMO Reference: DCO/2022/00008  
Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020026  
Identification Number: F841F9DB0

06 October 2025

Dear Sir or Madam,

**Planning Act 2008, National Grid Electricity Transmission, Proposed Sea Link Project**

On 23 April 2025, the Marine Management Organisation (the “MMO”) received notice under section 55 of the Planning Act 2008 (“the PA 2008”) that the Planning Inspectorate (“PINS”) had accepted an application made by National Grid Electricity Transmission, (the “Applicant”) for determination of a development consent order (“DCO”) for the construction, maintenance and operation of the proposed Sea Link Project (the “DCO Application”), (MMO ref: DCO/2022/00008 PINS ref:EN020026).

The Applicant seeks authorisation for the construction, operation and maintenance of the Sea Link interconnector, comprising of approximately 122 kilometres (“km”) High Voltage Alternating Current (“HVAC”) cable between the Suffolk landfall location (between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness) and the Kent landfall location at Pegwell Bay (the “Project”).

The MMO received a Rule 6 letter on 19 September 2025. Please find the MMO’s comments below on the following topics:

1. Preliminary Meeting Attendance
2. Comments on Examination Timetable including Issue Specific Hearing (ISH) Attendance

Yours sincerely



Marine Licencing Case Officer



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## 1. Preliminary meeting attendance

- 1.1. The MMO will not be attending the preliminary meeting on 05 November 2025. The MMO will also not be attending the open floor hearings or issue specific hearings (“ISH”) scheduled between 05 November and 13 November 2025. The MMO has reviewed the draft timetable for the examination of the application and has highlighted concerns on the timetable in Appendix D for consideration by the Examining Authority (“ExA”).

## 2. Comments on Examination Timetable

- 2.1. With regard to the draft examination timetable, the MMO notes that Deadline 1 is currently planned for Tuesday 18 November 2025 with Deadline 1A for the written summaries of oral submission on Wednesday 26 November 2025. Deadline 2 is currently scheduled for Tuesday 9 December. Therefore, there are 15 working days between Deadline 1 and 2. The MMO is concerned that this is insufficient time to review the comments, consult where necessary and to provide a written response. Therefore, we ask that the deadlines be appropriately spaced apart to allow the maximum time possible.
- 2.2. The MMO notes that the Examination is principally a written process. The MMO understands that some issues need to be discussed in person to ensure understanding by the ExA. At this stage, the MMO is not planning on attending any ISH, however, we will keep a watching brief and respond to any questions posed by the ExA on completion of the ISH. This is to ensure resource is spent on providing detailed written responses and resolving any issues with the Applicant.
- 2.3. If the ExA requests MMO attendance for an ISH, the MMO would ask that hearings are organised to minimise the need for the MMO to be in attendance for all hearings, e.g., separating offshore matters and onshore matters. In addition to this, the MO would welcome any discussions on the DML or offshore DCO sections to be discussed at the earliest opportunity within the agenda. This would enable better time utilisation, allowing for a more efficient and effective examination.
- 2.4. The draft examination timetable states in point 14 that the ExA will publicise First Written Questions (ExQ1) on 17 December 2025. A deadline of 7 January 2026 is then suggested in point 15 to provide responses to ExQ1, further comments on other submissions, and further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17. The MMO notes that both the deadlines suggested in Points 14 and 15 are around the Christmas period when the organisation experiences reduced capacity to respond. The MMO requests that these deadlines are revised to allow sufficient time to review ExQ1 and provide responses to the points set out in deadline 3.
- 2.5. In addition, the draft examination timetable states in point 21 that the ExA will issue *“commentary on, or schedule of changes to, the draft development consent order (dDCO) (if required),”* on 03 March 2026. The deadline to respond to this is 10 March 2026 (point 22 of the examination timetable). The MMO requests that these deadlines are revised to allow sufficient time to review the draft DCO (including the deemed marine licences) and provide responses to the points set out.

- 2.6. The MMO notes that point 24 (Deadline 6) is due Wednesday 08 April 2026. The MMO notes that this is during the Easter leave period when the organisation experiences reduced capacity to respond. The MMO requests that this deadline is revised.
- 2.7. The MMO notes Deadline 6 and Deadline 7 (Points 24 and 25) are scheduled for Wednesday 08 April 2026 and Thursday 23 April 2026 respectively. The MMO requests that Deadline 7 be amended. This is to allow the MMO time to review, consult and respond to any final issues.