From: [redacted]
To: South East Anglia Link
Subject: Project: South East Anglia Link (Sea Link) – Ref EN020026
Date: 12 November 2025 15:21:05

You [redacted]

Deadline 2 Representation: Integration of Tidal Stream Energy Infrastructure within the Sea Link Project

To: The Examining Authority
c/o: SouthEastAngliaLink@planninginspectorate.gov.uk
Project: South East Anglia Link (Sea Link) – Ref EN020026
From: Nigel Bennett BSc, Tidal Energy Inventor and Designer
Date: 12th November 2025

Dear Examining Authority,

Further to my accepted additional submission [AS-146], I wish to provide this focused representation for **Deadline 2** in accordance with the Rule 8 timetable. This submission highlights the need for the **Sea Link Project** to integrate future **tidal stream energy connections** through modular subsea infrastructure and to engage with the UK's established tidal research and development centres for technical input.

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1. Alignment with National Policy Statements

NPS EN-1 (Energy Policy, 2023 Update) – paragraphs 2.3.3–2.3.5 emphasise that major energy infrastructure should be designed to enable future renewable integration and system flexibility.

NPS EN-5 (Electricity Networks) – paragraph 2.2.5 requires that new transmission assets facilitate connection of low-carbon generation sources and avoid "design lock-in" that would prevent future connection opportunities.

Including modular "spurs" or connection hubs along the Sea Link cable corridor would directly meet these policy obligations and ensure readiness for integration of tidal stream technologies.

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2. Technical and Economic Justification

Tidal stream arrays are now entering commercial deployment, with significant operational experience at the **European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC) in Orkney** and the **Morlais Tidal Demonstration Zone in Wales**. These facilities provide proven technical standards for grid interface, subsea junctions and cable specifications suitable for marine conditions in UK waters.

It is strongly recommended that **National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)** consult with these centres to define the most effective and future-compatible subsea connection solutions. Integrating this capability during initial construction would minimise cost, avoid environmental disturbance, and establish the Sea Link route as a ready-made hub for marine renewable connection.

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3. Contribution to National Objectives

The **Net Zero Strategy (2021)** and **British Energy Security Strategy (2022)** identify tidal stream power as a key growth technology capable of contributing up to **6 GW by 2050**. The Sea Link project offers a critical opportunity to facilitate this transition by providing pre-engineered connection capacity, ensuring that tidal energy can scale efficiently and contribute to UK grid stability and regional economic growth.

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4. Requested Action

I respectfully request that the Examining Authority:

1. **Seek confirmation** from the Applicant (NGET) as to whether design provision for tidal stream energy connections has been incorporated; and

2. **Recommend consultation** with the **European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC)** and the **Morlais Tidal Energy Project** to identify suitable subsea connection standards and implementation options; and

3. **Advise inclusion** within the Development Consent Order (DCO) of provisions that preserve capacity for future tidal energy interconnection along the Sea Link corridor.

Thank you for considering this representation and for recognising the strategic importance of embedding tidal stream energy readiness into the Sea Link project to secure the UK's long-term renewable future.

Yours faithfully,
Nigel Bennett BSc
Tidal Energy Inventor and Designer