

Permission for this National Grid proposal at Minster and Pegwell should be refused. The need for the converter is not proven; the government report Clean Power 2030 has approved wind farms without Sealink. Early construction funding is NOT a determinant of a DCO approval. The shortfall in output at Sizewell is small and not imminent and possibly this proposal is not needed at all with other planned upgrades in East Anglia. In Kent it will not meet the need so alternatives such as overhead lines would be cheaper, less damaging and deal with the full shortfall.

Other, potentially cheaper and less destructive alternatives exist including upgrading of existing lines, better balancing of power needs and storage. The proposal has often not taken into account other changes such as Nautilus. National Grid create a sense that the outcome is determined before the decision has been taken by the Secretary of State. For all the above reasons this unnecessary proposal should be refused.