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To the ExA

Re: National Grid/Sea Link Project EN020026

My PINS [REDACTED]

The Applicant initially chose this area as it was the cheapest at £1.1 Billion at 2018/2019 prices. Since realising that Minster Marshes are wet, they have been forced to add plans to put at least 250,000 m3 of aggregate on the site to stabilise it, with the cost of the project possibly rising to £3Billion in today's prices. The project will also cause a big increase in the cost and disruption to Ramsgate and Cliffsend residents and larger destruction of countless wildlife on Ramsar and SSSI sites, mentioned previously.

I feel that even if the National Grid plans aren't scrapped, as suggested below, the upgrade from Canterbury to Kelmsley would be much cheaper than the current Sea Link plans and would satisfy the electricity need in the South East, as proved by other Interested Parties, such as SEAS (REP6-265A) and David Stevens (REP6-142).

The cost of this and other National Grid projects has piqued the interest of Greg Jackson, the CEO of Octopus Energy, who was interviewed by The Telegraph recently, with the heading, "Octopus warns Labour against energy bailout."

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2026/04/25/octopus-warns-labour-against-energy-bailout/> It said,

“The boss of Britain’s biggest energy supplier has urged Labour to cut spending on the electricity grid instead of bailing out consumers.”

“Disagreements over energy demand”

“Official forecasts also suggest that it will be needed because of the rise in demand that comes from greater adoption of electrified transport and heating.”

“According to the estimates, power demand will be 50pc higher by 2035, and 100pc higher by 2050.”

“However, Mr Jackson said the forecasts made flawed assumptions about the amount of power that will be needed at “peak” times such as the mornings and evenings.”

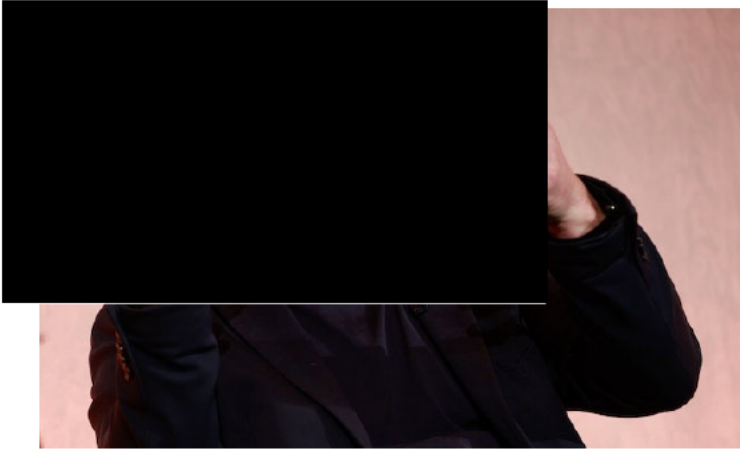
“Other energy company bosses, including Simone Rossi, the boss of EDF, have also questioned the Government’s assumptions that electricity demand is set to shoot up, arguing that it has actually fallen in the past two decades.”

These arguments confirm to me that the Sea Link project is fundamentally flawed and unnecessary and I object to it on many levels.

Angela Stevens.

Octopus warns Labour against energy bailout

Supplier's boss says Government's £100bn plan to upgrade electricity grid is 'nuts'



[Redacted] Industry Editor
Published 25 April 2026

The boss of Britain's biggest energy supplier has urged Labour to cut spending on the electricity grid instead of bailing out consumers.

Greg Jackson, the chief executive of Octopus Energy, said a planned £100bn upgrade of the wires that carry power around the country threatened to drive household bills unnecessarily higher and was based on flawed modelling.

In an interview with The Telegraph, the entrepreneur called for ministers to cut back on the "nuts" programme by as much as 80pc. He argued this was a better way to reduce energy prices than bailing out consumers this winter.

His comments come as fears are growing that a prolonged closure of the Strait of Hormuz will put further pressure on gas prices, which are already 40pc above their pre-crisis levels.

However, Mr Jackson, whose company supplies some eight million UK households, said the current situation was "not in the same territory" as the 2022 gas price surge. Bills are expected to rise to around £2,000 this winter.

During the Ukraine conflict, energy bills were forecast to go as high as £6,000, although the Conservative government capped them at £2,500 at the time.

Gas prices are well above pre-war levels



Instead of spending money on support programmes, ██████████ urged the Government to “stop the waste” and cut the energy costs paid by households.

He said: “Before you talk about bailouts, you should be talking about how you slash the cost of energy. “We should be urgently reassessing spending plans for grid and networks and saying ‘We’re going to slash that by £50bn, £70bn, because we can run the electricity system without it’.

“If we use times like now to say ‘Let’s cut the underlying cost of our energy’, then there’s far less pressure for things like bailouts. Let’s first of all have the most efficient electricity system possible before we think about those other measures.”

As part of Britain’s plan to reach net zero carbon emissions, the Government has approved a vast construction programme to expand the network of cables and wires that carry electricity around the country.

The work will increase the system’s capacity to carry power from new wind and solar farms.

Disagreements over energy demand

Official forecasts also suggest that it will be needed because of the rise in demand that comes from greater adoption of electrified transport and heating.

According to the estimates, power demand will be 50pc higher by 2035, and 100pc higher by 2050.

However, Mr Jackson said the forecasts made flawed assumptions about the amount of power that will be needed at “peak” times such as the mornings and evenings.

Data from Octopus show that although a typical household with an electric car saw their power consumption rise by 60pc, their peak-time consumption only increased by 4pc.

By comparison, the official forecasts assume a 70pc increase in peak-time demand, Mr Jackson said.

This is significant because energy suppliers have warned that charges to pay for network upgrades are set to be the biggest factor driving household bills higher between now and 2030.

The typical household paid about £166 per year in network charges last year, according to the Electricitybills.uk tracker website. By 2030, that is expected to rise to £251.

Other energy company bosses, including Simone Rossi, the boss of EDF, have also questioned the Government’s assumptions that electricity demand is set to shoot up, arguing that it has actually fallen in the past two decades.

Mr Jackson also rejected claims that Octopus had a cosy relationship with Labour.

Dale Vince, a green energy industrialist, pointed to Mr Jackson’s advisory roles in the Government and asked on Friday: “Anything we need to know?”

Mr Jackson said his advice was often ignored by ministers, pointing to recent decisions to abandon plans for regional electricity pricing and to block the Chinese wind turbine manufacturer. His company disagreed with the Government on both occasions.

A government spokesman said: “We are reversing decades of underinvestment to upgrade and build out the grid – which will minimise constraint costs, meet the capacity needed to deliver clean power by 2030, and help bring down bills for households for good.

“We are also enabling energy companies to offer discounted energy bills to customers on windy days.
“The Government is determined to fight people’s corner in this fossil fuel crisis, and we will go further and faster to do so.