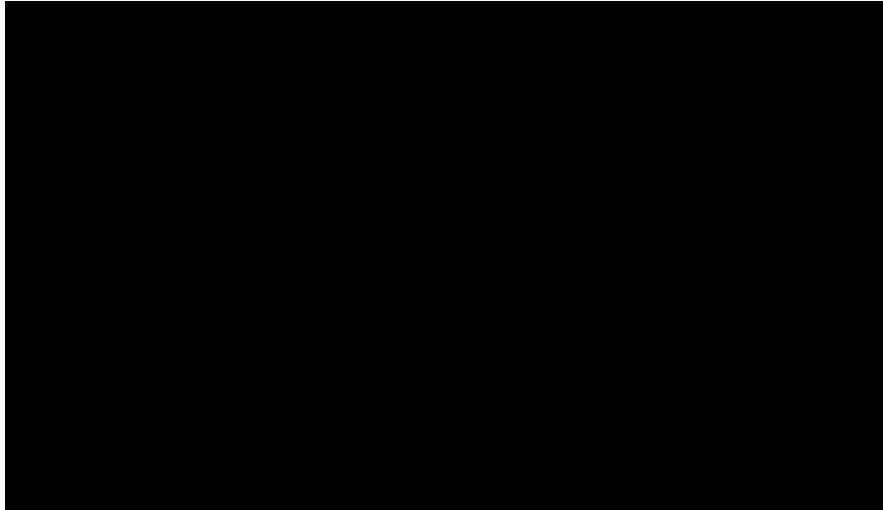


[REDACTED] >
secretaryofstate@energysecurity.gov.uk

South East Anglia Link

[?]



To: The Rt Hon Miatta Fahnbulleh MP, Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero,

c/o: Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery Team, DESNZ

secretaryofstate@energysecurity.gov.uk

cc. SouthEastAngliaLink@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

18 September 2026

Dear Secretary of State,

SEALINK NATIONAL GRID PROJECT SHOULD NOT PROCEED

We are writing to you as residents of the small historic coastal town of Aldeburgh, which has a strong visitor economy based on the appeal of the natural environment and a vibrant cultural life. We wish to urge you to reject the application by National Grid Electricity Transmission for a DCO for SeaLink. We are not persuaded that this project is necessary or economic. We are distressed by the way in which it has been promoted

by National Grid. And we fear for the wellbeing of our very special historic town and its residents if it goes ahead.

We understand that the National Audit Office and Ofgem have both recently issued reports questioning the basis on which SeaLink is being promoted. The NAO report 'Value for Money – Upgrading the Electricity Supply Network' highlights weaknesses in the existing system, calling for stronger oversight, transparent monitoring and adequate regulatory capability to scrutinise costs. In the light of our experience with SeaLink we agree that these weaknesses must be addressed, in order that necessary investment can proceed with public support and confidence.

SeaLink is a prime example of the failings of the present system. Its estimated cost as presented to the Planning Inspectorate Examination was £1.1 billion whereas Ofgem now assesses the cost at approximately £3.2 billion. This, and many other weaknesses in National Grid's presentation of the project, makes a mockery of the Planning Inspectorate process, which is carried out with great professionalism by its staff and involves councils, associations and residents in a large amount of preparatory work. We understand that a much less costly alternative way of conveying power between Suffolk and Kent would be by upgrading existing onshore pylon corridors at a cost of some £300 million, surely a much better use of resources.

We support the development of offshore wind and the planned transition to net zero. What we cannot support is the accumulation of uncoordinated energy projects in an area already very hard hit by the construction of the massive Sizewell C nuclear power station. Our roads are unsuitable for heavy goods traffic, our environment (which is supposed to be part of a designated National Landscape) cannot stand the associated destruction of habitat, noise, dust and vibration, and our visitor-based economy is severely threatened.

Your Government must take a more pro-active approach to the planning of major energy projects, so as to ensure that they fulfil needs economically while securing the maximum possible public acceptance of the disruption which they inevitably cause. SeaLink falls a long way short of these requirements and should therefore not be granted a DCO.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

Paul and Margaret Bongers de Rath

