
N2T National Grid

From Stephen Jones [REDACTED]

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To Norwich to Tilbury <NorwichtoTilbury@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

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Dear Planning Inspectorate,

I am very concerned by the way that National Grid (NG) has conducted itself with the grid upgrades.

Up until now the affected parties have generally all listened carefully to NG and held back - but we are being walked over. I personally have highlighted the fact that NG has not come clean with the facts when answering concerns. I now go further to say that they have lied repeatedly and intentionally misled the public over their plans. I wish to keep this short, so there are too many lies to list here but more to the point we did not get a fair consultation, they say they listened but then ignored concerns and constructive suggestions. They have shown no regard for the people who will live near the planned pylons and have to suffer the pains of losing equity in their homes and be unable to easily relocate if they choose.

Sensible suggestions for alternatives put forward to NG have not been considered, we get answers on the lines of "that has already been ruled out". An example of how we have been misled is: NG initially didn't answer some questions such as height of structures, later they said the new pylons would be the same height as existing ones – which we found out were about 32m high. Subsequently we have been told they will be an average of 50m high, some may be 70m. They will be much more imposing when you allow for the fact that they will need to have a much bigger base too.

I asked about impact on roads during the long construction phase and was told with confidence that there will "not be any as temporary roads will be made across open fields". Also I was verbally told at a consultation that there was "no plan for a lorry park near Bunwell Hill". In time this information has been completely changed. Now we are told that certain roads will be shut for many months, this is devastating news for me. With the exception of one route the roads around my house are all through fords which I cannot drive through for a few days following rainfall as they are frequently too deep for a normal car. That one reliable route will be closed long term which will cut me off for days at a time – preventing me from getting essential supplies as well as taking my wife to [REDACTED]. We are now told that a lorry park has always been planned near Bunwell Hill which is very large and I expect will lead to lots of heavy vehicles which is likely to impact our quality of life and prevent my Wife from getting rest when really needed.

It seems grossly unfair that people near the N2T route will have their lives completely and permanently changed, NG only care about getting more power to key locations such as London while rural communities are penalised financially and most probably have to accept a poorer living environment next to ugly structures that belong in the last century. I didn't choose to live and die under the shadow of a pylon – but the chances are I will if NG continue to walk over people living in rural locations.

NG has not shown any inclination to be forward thinking on N2T. In other areas they are planning HV undersea and underground cabling - we have both of these already in and around East Anglia and I have not heard of any complaints. We have relatively new a power station near Snetterton that is connected to Norwich underground, there was absolutely no noticeable disruption installing the cables and no one sees them now. In other UK areas NG has chosen undersea connections to save money and time, I have been told that it is different here because East Anglia is just flat and featureless – which shows a lot of ignorance as it is not true at all. NG own a company in the USA that produces lightweight high "conducting" HV cabling – this

also has been ruled out in favour of traditional copper that is heavy and expensive and although I am not a physicist but I understand that power is transmitted by the electric field around the cable, not by the flow of electrons in the metal cable itself, so there is plenty of scope for improving upon solid copper core designs that would reduce the number of cables required in the first place.

Regarding number of cables I was told by NG that the key reason that undersea is not feasible is that they will need more than one cable, they do not seem to realise that two lines of pylons carry a dozen or more cables that are vulnerable to the elements and are known (by NG) to require higher ongoing maintenance costs than undersea and underground solutions.

NG's key argument is that the planned N2T route is the cheapest and best for the environment as well as the end consumer but they have consistently failed to prove this. The sheer amount of Steel that I understand is being shipped from China and concrete used in the foundations as well as the 1000's of tonnes of earth that will be excavated and transported elsewhere seems to be glossed over. I am unconvinced that this is a Green project as they have argued. I also do not believe it is quick or cheap compared with the alternatives but it will certainly be a major disruption and cause a permanent blot on the landscape as well as affecting many people financially and environmentally.

NG has taken a lengthy approach using misinformation and delays to wear us down thinking that we will run out of energy and give up. We have not been consulted and not been given any democratic rites over the future of our countryside, quality of life or wealth. Instead we have been told what will happen and informed that we have no choice. NG need to enter the 21st century, listen to people, consider ideas properly and most importantly do what the public wants and that is not lines of ugly steel towers stretching across 3 counties. Even if and it is a big IF undersea is more expensive than pylons then no one has asked us if we are happy to pay more to save our environment – which actually would be forward thinking.

I would be happy to provide more information regarding the untruths that NG has been telling us and the questions that they have avoided answering. Further I am happy to discuss the matter further if anyone wishes to contact me (I am approachable).

Stephen Jones

