



August 7th 2025

Dear Sirs

Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms: Transmission Assets Project

I observed the hearings held at AFC Fylde last week and was impressed by the attention to detail (e.g. the expansive list of action points from each day) and by the representations made by individuals and organisations. After further reflection, I felt I must share with you my own observations.

Clearly the DCO application is a highly complex matter and the bulging content of the Examination Library is testament to this. The applicants, in their responses to representations and to questions from the Examination team, seem totally convinced of the viability of their project and supremely confident that any concerns or issues raised are either invalid or can be addressed easily.

I am not sure that it was fully appreciated that those who oppose the project or have well founded concerns about certain aspects of the project, find the constraints that surrounded the specificity of the DCO application frustrating because it is the finer detail associated with the subsequent design phase which can have such profound impacts on individuals, communities and the environment. When matters were raised which fell into the impacts which the design phase might produce, these perfectly understandable comments were dismissed as an irrelevance and not within the remit of the hearing or indeed germane to the DCO application. I felt some unease that genuine concerns were dismissed on procedural grounds: a classic strategy in many legal undertakings and patronising ("you are out of your depth and don't know how these things work").

I apologise if I have failed to read the appropriate documents which explain the rationale behind the chosen route of the cabling, but as one of my customers remarked, the route looks like it has followed the path taken by an out of control Springer Spaniel as it scythes through productive farmland, crosses major roads, sweeps close to residential properties, rips up recreational facilities and imperils those who use rural roads.

I am unclear as to how the DCO application examination will address the issue of the two projects. Could a recommendation to the Secretary of State approve one and dismiss the other? Could a recommendation include a requirement that work commences concurrently on both projects? Could a recommendation accept that the projects could be undertaken sequentially?

Finally, I am increasingly cautious about the glibness associated with the discussion about environmental mitigation. The fact that more productive farmland will be taken to provide areas of mitigation is somewhat ironic, but more important is that effective mitigation takes years to impact whereas construction works have an immediate and deleterious impact.

My objection to the Morgan and Morecambe Wind Farms is not about the development of alternative energy, but the route of the transmission assets seems, on balance, to undermine the fundamental principle of seeking sustainable electrical power (green energy) when the impact on the environment and the people who live and work in it is so palpably traumatic and, in essence, a destructive force rather than a force for good.

Yours sincerely

