

Our Ref: SEGL2-ConnerEL
Your Ref:
Date: 10th October 2023

The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
Level 3
Orchard 2
1 Victoria Street
Westminster
London
SW1H 0ET

FAO: John McKenna

BY EMAIL TO: John.McKenna@energysecurity.gov.uk

Dear Sir,

Applicant: National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (National Grid)
Scheme: Scotland to England Green Link 2 (SEGL2)
Order: The National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (Scotland to England Green Link 2)
Compulsory Purchase Order 2023 (CPO Rights)
Landowners: Sandra Brown, Pamela Jane England, Lynn Mandy Mason and Jean Conner

We have been appointed to represent the above landowners who are affected by the proposed Scotland to England Green Link 2 Scheme (SEGL2).

Please accept this submission on behalf of the above landowners in respect of the application for a Compulsory Purchase Order in SEGL2 by National Grid.

As agents for the above landowners, we have provided input into the Land Interest Group (LiG), who collectively have sought to address issues associated with the Scheme and negotiate Voluntary Agreements in an efficient and cohesive manner.

Position to Date

Negotiations are ongoing with the Applicant and their agent via the LiG in order to secure Voluntary Agreements with landowners. Progress has been made on the suggested heads of terms for Voluntary Agreements, but as is often the case with such schemes where the Applicant has access to CPO Rights, insufficient time has been provided in which to conclude a Voluntary Agreement or unacceptable terms have been included in the agreements by the Applicant.

Concluding Voluntary Agreements has been frustrated by a lack of substantive information or responses to vital issues by National Grid, preventing landowners from making an informed decision on the impact of the Scheme and proposed Voluntary Agreement on their land.

Voluntary Agreement

There remains a genuine prospect of concluding Voluntary Agreements if National Grid provide the necessary information and responses to the outstanding queries in a timely manner.

Key issues which remain to be resolved include:

- **Rights over Landowner's Wider Ownership Interests (Blue Land)**

National Grid are requiring additional rights over a wider area (outside the project corridor) of land included with our clients' ownership. The reason for requiring such rights needs to be supported with justifying reasons so that the area can be clearly defined, without any unnecessary imposition on the wider ownership interests of landowners. To date National Grid have not done this.

Clarification is required from National Grid on the timing and extent of access across our clients' wider ownership interests, with and without vehicles, plant, and equipment to inspect, survey operate, maintain, repair, renew, replace, remove or decommission the electric cables.

- **Survey Works and Cable Route**

The extent and impact of proposed ground investigation works on the cable route has been limited to our knowledge creating concern that the proposed cable route may not be suitable based on the construction method proposed. This could lead to unplanned route deviations or unintended impacts on some areas of land. Two cable routes are proposed through our clients' land. We await clarification on which route is to be pursued, with one route having a more significant impact on our clients' ownership interest.

- **Cable Depth**

It is considered essential for the cables to be installed at a minimum depth of 1.20 m to prevent the cables from interfering with farming operations together with field drainage. This is a particularly important issue as there is a risk that the cables could move closer to the surface over time through 'heave' and our Clients must not be put in a position where their continued use of the land risks damaging the cables. Otherwise, the Scheme could severely limit, or in the worst case scenario sterilise the future use of the land for agriculture.

- **Agricultural Liaison Officer (ALO)**

The role of the proposed ALO needs to be clearly defined together with the reporting structure within National Grid to provide sufficient confidence to landowners that the ALO will have the necessary authority and power to genuinely deal with issues through the investigation, construction and restoration phases of the Scheme.

No detail on the experience or exact role of the ALO has been provided to date by National Grid.

- **Underdrainage**

Further information is needed from National Grid on how current and future field drainage will be accommodated once the cables have been installed.

- **Soils**

The treatment and reinstatement of soil during and after construction is another major concern for landowners and has been a significant issue on similar schemes which have been constructed in East Yorkshire over recent years.

Specific detail is needed from National Grid on how the current quality of the soil will be assessed pre-construction and how soils will be treated during the construction and restorations phases of the Scheme.

- **Decommissioning**

To date the Applicant has provided limited information on the proposals for decommissioning the Scheme and the proposed cables to be installed in our clients' land. More detail is needed in order to understand whether the Project will create any legacy issues likely to affect our client's ownership interest in the future.

Partners:

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Arthur Davis BSc (Hons) MIEEM
Suzanne Horn BSc (Hons) BASIS FACTS
Ian Murray HND

Associate Partners:

Emma Smith BSc (Hons) MRICS FAAV

Application for Compulsory Purchase Order

As a consequence of the outstanding information needed from the Applicant, our clients have been unable to make a fully informed decision on the proposed Voluntary Agreement, despite a genuine intention to co-operate and work towards achieving a Voluntary Agreement

We therefore respectfully request that the application for the proposed Order granting CPO rights is deferred until the Applicant has fully addressed the outstanding issues highlighted and provided sufficient detail to allow landowners to make a fully informed decision on the Voluntary Agreement.

Yours Faithfully,



OLIVER STONES BSc (Hons) MRICS FAAV

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF ALNWICK FARMING & PROPERTY CONSULTANTS

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