

Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP
Secretary of State for Energy Security and
Net Zero

Department for Energy Security and Net
Zero
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Enquiries to: Phil Watson –Strategic Energy
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Date: 9th July 2024

BY EMAIL

Dear Secretary of State,

Bramford to Twinstead Pylon line project

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment as Secretary of State. As your departmental civil servants are aware, Suffolk County Council has, for many years, been closely engaged with the consenting process for energy infrastructure and has sought to make a constructive contribution to this difficult, but ultimately necessary, process.

The County Council has been supportive in principle of the Bramford to Twinstead pylon project. As the Council set out to the Planning Inspectorate, it is satisfied that National Grid, in collaboration with communities and statutory consultees, has proposed a scheme that responds to the sensitivities of landscape, place, and communities, with a great deal of care.

However, the Council is, as it has already set out to the Planning Inspectorate, disappointed that National Grid Electricity Transmission have sought to deliver the scheme with insufficient safeguards to ensure that their appointed construction contractors are subject to effective oversight and control, by the relevant Local Authorities. The County Council would be grateful if, in making your decision on this matter, you could ensure that appropriate consideration is given to the representations the Council made, jointly with other Authorities, at Deadline 9 of the examination¹.

¹ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020002/EN020002-001641-Suffolk%20County%20Council%20-%20Comments%20on%20submissions%20received%20at%20Deadline%208.pdf>

The County Council considers that such controls are reasonable, appropriate, and necessary, in order to safeguard the environment and amenity of local communities during the construction of the project, and to ensure the restoration, mitigation, and Biodiversity Net Gain proposals, that it is essential for the scheme to deliver, are achieved.

The Council, of course, remains ready to work with the developer, to ensure adequate and effective control does not jeopardise the timely delivery of this project.

Yours sincerely,



Cllr Richard Rout

Deputy to the Leader, for Nationally
Significant Infrastructure Projects