

Secretary of State c/o John McKenna
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy,
c/o Eversheds Sutherland (International) LLP
Two New Bailey Square
6 Stanley Street
Salford
M3 5GX

By email to: john.mckenna@beis.gov.uk

Our reference AHPK/(WGNP)CPO2022
National Grid reference: LRS/143/NG/NOM/90

07 December 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

The National Grid Gas PLC (Western Gas Network Project) Compulsory Purchase Order 2022 ("the Order")

We act on behalf of National Grid Electricity Distribution (East Midlands) plc, National Grid Electricity Distribution (West Midlands) plc, and National Grid Electricity Distribution (South Wales) plc (together, the "**NGED entities**"), whose registered offices are at Avonbank, Feeder Road, Bristol, BS2 0TB.

The NGED entities are the licensed distribution network operators under Section 6 Electricity Act 1989 (the "**EA1989**") for parts of the areas in which the Order is proposed to have effect. Section 9 of the EA1989 places a duty on a electricity distributor to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical system of electricity distribution.

Pursuant to Section 16 of the Acquisition of Land Act 1981 (the "**ALA1981**"), the NGED entities are also a statutory undertaker.

Interests in land are comprised in the proposed Order which are held by the NGED entities for the purpose of their undertakings. However, to date the NGED entities have not yet determined the full impact of the Order on their electricity networks. In particular, the NGED entities wish to understand:

- How the proposal will ensure security of electricity supply in their respective areas.
- How the proposal will protect their electricity networks during the construction phase of the scheme and following its completion.

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- Precise details of the design or construction of the scheme and therefore potential operational implications.
- Precise details of the property rights and interests that will be affected by the implementation of the Order.

Due to the nature of the Order, the NGED entities could be required to divert their assets for the purpose of facilitating the construction of the scheme connected with the Order. Therefore, the Order has the potential to cause serious detriment to the carrying on of the statutory responsibilities of the NGED entities, which may result in a significant negative impact upon the distribution of electricity in their respective areas.

Therefore, in order to ensure that no detrimental impact is suffered by the NGED entities as a result of the confirmation of the Order, each NGED entity may require an asset protection agreement to be entered into by National Grid Gas PLC before the Order is confirmed.

Please accept this letter as the NGED entities' representations to the Order consisting of holding objections. The objections are framed as "*holding*" objections as the NGED entities would not wish these to be considered as outright objections to the project. The objections are being made in order to protect the NGED entities' statutory rights and duties pursuant to the EA1989.

We would expect the objections to be withdrawn once discussions are finalised with National Grid Gas PLC regarding solutions to protect NGED's electricity network and formal agreements are concluded.

A separate formal objection under Section 16 ALA1981 in similar terms is being sent to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy as the appropriate Minister to receive that objection.

The deadline for submitting objections to the Order is 7 December 2022, however, we note that no email address was specified for providing objections in the Order notice. Therefore, to ensure receipt by the deadline, this holding objection has been sent to the named recipient, John Mckenna via john.mckenna@beis.gov.uk.

We would be grateful if you could confirm receipt of this letter to the undersigned at the address or e-mail given, and address all further correspondence to the same.

Yours faithfully



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