

Necton Parish Council

Parish Office, Necton Community Centre
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Hannah Pratt
Senior EIA & Land Rights Advisor
On behalf of the Secretary of State
By email – environmentalservices@pins.gsi.gov.uk

Parish Clerk & RFO:
Gabrielle Joyce
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28 October 2016

Dear Hannah,

Application by Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Norfolk Vanguard Offshore Wind Farm

Further to your letter by email 5 October 2016, we wish to inform the Secretary of State of the following information we consider should be provided in the environmental statement.

- A comprehensive review of the combined impact of Vanguard and Boreas on the human, environmental and social aspects of the sub-station search area. Whilst this application is considering only Vanguard, it is reasonable to consider that Boreas will be offered a connection to the same National Grid substation and the combined impact must be a consideration in this process.
- The above review must include an assessment of the long-term visual impact on the area, taking into consideration the existing sub-stations at Necton and the wind turbines at South Pickenham and Swaffham. The review must consider the rate of industrialisation of this rural landscape.
- A comprehensive traffic management plan, considering the impact on the A47 particularly between Fransham and Necton junctions, currently a single carriageway with multiple speed limits. The wider impact on this section of the A47 should be considered if Great Yarmouth is the selected port, as this will feed commercial traffic directly onto the A47, given the expectation that enhanced port facilities will provide a fringe benefit to its economy.
- The traffic management plan should also recognise that this section of the A47 lies within an expanding residential area, with approximately 300 new dwellings anticipated in Necton alone over the next 10 years. A sector standard measurement of 6-8 car movements a day per dwelling should be used when calculating impact.
- Construction noise calculations, provided in an easy to understand format, ie. comparison with other similar noise types. This should also cover the length of time noise will be experienced and the mechanisms in place for monitoring, evaluation and a community communication plan that includes advance warning as well as a detailed complaint management schedule with proper accountability and consequence.

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- A clear plan regarding light management during construction and operation. Many of our residents continue to be adversely affected by the shortcomings of the existing wind farm. We would want to see that energy conservation is actively practiced and not just incorporated into proposal documentation. Ideally, a robust system of penalties applied on breach of procedure actively policed by an identified independent organisation.
- Assurances that conditions applied through the planning process on Vattenfall will be transferred to any subsequent owner of any and all parts of the project. Reference is made within the scoping report that the off- and on-shore electrical infrastructure will be sold once built and commissioned.
- A detailed landscaping plan, ensuring best use of the existing land features, such as undulations and woodland copes; to include a timetable, begin at pre-construction stage and be applied alongside construction so that when the works are complete, the selected plant-life has matured.
- A plan detailing how contractors will be selected for the groundworks associated with both the cable route and the sub-station. This plan would include expected standards relating to skills, experiences, licences, etc. of contractors and their sub-contractors. We ask for this inclusion to ensure that the experiences of some local farmers during the cabling of the Dudgeon Wind Farm are not repeated.
- A socio-economic assessment of the 3KM site selection area, which identifies the impact on community infrastructure, local businesses and residents. This assessment must include home-workers as a category and the impact on the local house price index. We would welcome a commitment from the applicant to consider a compensation scheme for homeowners who find their sale prices are adversely affected by the presence of substations. We would wish to understand the enduring economic legacy this development would provide to the sub-station area.
- An assessment of how climate change, human health and natural resources will be affected by this development, to include a focus on the sub-station selection area.
- A detailed report on the consideration of alternative sites for the sub-station, including sites outside the selected area.
- The scoping report provides indicative parameters for the substation footprint at 300m x 250m and buildings height at 20m. We would expect these to be maximum dimensions and indeed we would wish to see a reduction in these dimensions, which we feel is possible in this fast developing sector.

We recognise that this project is of national significance and we agree with the need for such projects, however, we are also very aware of the concerns of a number of our residents who have suffered with light and noise pollution during construction and commissioning of the two existing sub-stations (Dudgeon and National Grid). We would wish that this development learns from previous and provides worthy opportunities for the village and wider community. We look forward to having these wishes respected in an Environmental Statement.

Yours sincerely,
 Gabrielle Joyce
 Clerk to Necton Parish Council
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