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Date: 5th April 2024

By email

Dear Sir / Madam

Subject: National Grid: Great Grid Upgrade. Request for an EIA Screening Opinion under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (as amended) for a new 400kV substation at land adjoining the existing National Grid 275kV Chesterfield Substation, Calow Lane.

I refer to our pre-application meeting with Adrian Kirkham and Graeme Cooper on 3rd November 2023 regarding the above.

National Grid is proposing to develop a new 400kV substation on land adjoining the existing Chesterfield 275kV Substation site at Calow Lane as part of the 'Great Grid Upgrade', which aims to help the UK to switch to clean energy and to provide additional resilience within the electricity network. The Great Grid Upgrade will enable the electricity grid to carry more clean energy from renewable sources to communities, homes and businesses in every part of England and Wales, helping us the UK to reach net zero.

In accordance with Regulation 6(1) of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 'EIA Regulations') (as amended), National Grid requests that North East Derbyshire District Council adopt a Screening Opinion as to whether the proposed substation at Chesterfield (hereafter referred to as 'the proposed Scheme') would be likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of factors such as its nature, size or location, thereby determining whether or not the proposed Scheme is EIA development.

The proposed Scheme comprises the development of a Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) 400kV substation and associated infrastructure. This includes approximately 16 bays, network stability equipment, standard substation plant and new substation control infrastructure.

Within the national electricity system, substations act within the grid to enable electricity to be transmitted as different voltages, safely and effectively. Substations can transform the voltage of electricity either up or down as required. This is needed so that electricity can be safely transmitted throughout the country and into homes, businesses and buildings. The GIS substation will be within a compound of approximately 150 m x 165 m and would include two Supergrid Transformers (SGTs). The tallest structure within the substation compound would be the GIS building which would be approximately 14 m in height. This is the only building proposed. There will be six Overhead Line (OHL) gantries, which are bridge-like structures with platforms used to support equipment and cabling. The compound would be surrounded by an approximately 3.4 m high security fence, including CCTV surveillance.

The enclosed EIA Screening Report includes a Screening Checklist that reflects the requirements of the EIA Regulations. The Screening Checklist contains a comprehensive review of the likely significant effects of the

proposed Scheme on the environment and should be read in conjunction with the main body of the report. In accordance with Regulation 6 of the EIA Regulations, the report also contains:

A plan sufficient to identify the land; and

Brief description of the nature and purpose of the development and of its possible effects on the environment.

In addition to the proposed new substation, the works will require modifications to the existing overhead line works, to enable the connection of the proposed substation at Chesterfield to the wider network. This will comprise the installation of short stretches of new Overhead line (OHL) between the proposed substation and the existing OHL network, as well as the removal of some existing stretches of OHL, together with temporary works (such as temporary masts) required to make these permanent changes. These works are described in the enclosed EIA Screening submission.

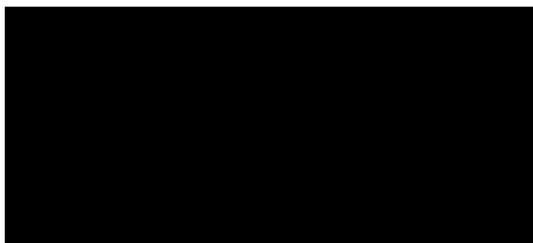
The Electricity Act 1989 (as amended) set out, that consent must be obtained to ‘install or keep installed’ electric lines above ground. Section 37 does not approach to overhead lines on land that “is, or will be” in National Grid’s “occupation or control”. In addition, the Overhead Lines (Exemption) (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 allow certain works to be undertaken without requiring consent. One of the exemptions relates to the replacement of an existing overhead line permitting it to be installed in a different position from the existing line where the distance does not exceed 60 metres.

At the Chesterfield Substation site, any new pylons will be on land within National Grid’s land ownership and as such these works do not require s37 Consent. A section of overhead line outside of National Grid’s ownership will deviate from its current alignment (due to the repositioning of a pylon within National Grid’s land ownership) to an existing pylon on third party land. The deviation will be within 60 metres of the existing alignment and as such, it is considered that these works will benefit from an exemption as laid down in the 2009 Regulations (subject to Paragraph 4 (1) (c) and (d)). We will need to formalise this position with North East Derbyshire and shall do that separately to this EIA Screening submission at a point when the final design has been fixed.

The attached report concludes that a statutory EIA is not required for either the proposed substation or tie in works, for which a TCPA planning application will be submitted to North East Derbyshire District Council in Q4 2024. In advance of that planning application submission, National Grid will undertake a round of public consultation in early May, following which a further pre-application meeting will be sought with the council.

We look forward to receiving your response within the statutory timeframe as set out in the EIA Regulations and if you have any queries in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



James Glynn
Technical Director



Enc: EIA Screening Request to North East Derbyshire District Council under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 for a new 400kV substation at land adjoining the Chesterfield 275kV Substation, Calow Lane, Chesterfield

CC. Dominic Moore National Grid
Rory McKeever National Grid
Reiss Graham National Grid
(by email only)