

From: JENKIN, Bernard <bernard.jenkin.mp@parliament.uk>

Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2022 1:20 PM

To: JENKIN, Bernard <bernard.jenkin.mp@parliament.uk>

Subject: An update from Sir Bernard Jenkin on National Grid's East Anglia GREEN consultation

Dear local resident

I have received a great deal of correspondence on the National Grid Green proposals and have responded to many of you previously. Given the numbers of emails I have now received, I am keen to update everyone on the ongoing campaign against these plans and my work with other Members whose constituencies are also affected. In the interest of keeping everyone informed and given the many emails I have received opposing these proposals, I am sending this 'round robin' email, and do apologise to those who have already heard from me for the doubling up of some information, specifically relating to my work chairing OffSET and also directing new contacts to the local campaign group coordinating opposition to these plans. I have included new information towards the end of this email and have attached my own submission to the consultation for your information.

As many of you know, I have been working against this plan for well over a year now. I have convened a group of east Anglian MPs, which I chair. This group is called OffSET (the Off-Shore Electricity Grid Task Force). Our objective is to persuade the Government to adopt a strategic approach to electricity transition grid planning in the east of England. This would replace the piecemeal, patch and mend approach that is adopted by national grid and the electricity regulator Ofgem currently. Ultimately, there needs to be a change in the legislative framework that regulates the electrical grid.

Our ultimate objective is to replace the need for pylons across the countryside with an offshore 'ring main' which serves both the new nuclear power stations and the increasing number of offshore wind turbines in the region, so that the electricity is generated and taken around the coast and up the Thames Estuary. This is also very important to me for Harwich because the Freeport East has a plan to create a green hydrogen hub which needs to be properly connected to our new nuclear and offshore wind arrays. We cannot have is cheap and cheerful patchwork solutions. We need a much more long-term, environment friendly solution. We have explained to the Government and to National Grid that the policy they are pursuing at the moment is likely to lead to protracted delays and increased costs because the present proposals will be contested in the courts. Our conversations with the Energy Minister, Greg Hands, have led to a more strategic approach in the long-term, and we will continue to work on this issue and make the case for alternative plans to the GREEN proposals.

I am also working with the campaign group which has sprung up against these plans locally, and you may wish to follow them to show your support and get involved in efforts to oppose the plans in a coordinated way.

The groups details are at the following links:

Interim website: <https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/xyOACE835C3W6PMMUw4sTf?domain=pylonseastanglia.weebly.com/>

Email: pylons@mail.com

Facebook group: https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/L5D_CGv3jf1JLgGGCpaXx2?domain=facebook.com

Finally, and as an update to everyone who has contacted me on this issue, the consultation date is fast approaching and I have made my own submission as the MP for Harwich and North Essex. I attach a copy of my submission for reference. I will also be submitting a joint response to the proposal with my MP colleagues on OffSET raising the wider issues with these proposals beyond those only relevant to Harwich and North Essex, and making the case for the off-shore option. I am also applying for a Back Bench Business debate on this to try and secure time in the chamber to raise the many issues constituents have raised with the Minister directly. You will also no doubt be pleased to learn your local Councillors are also very engaged in this issue and I am speaking to them, and other relevant parties, regularly.

I shall keep you all informed of my future work on this issue and encourage everyone to make their own submissions to the consultation process as soon as possible.

Best wishes

Yours

Bernard

Sir Bernard Jenkin MP (Harwich and North Essex)

Chair - House of Commons Liaison Committee

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