

Electricity Act 1989

Inquiry into:

**THE NATIONAL GRID ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION PLC (GRAIN
TO TILBURY) COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 2024**

**Summary of Statement of Evidence of
Kate McGregor
Senior Consents Manager
National Grid Electricity Transmission plc**

Specialist Field: Planning

On behalf of: National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc

1. **CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 My name is Kate McGregor and I am a Senior Consents Manager at National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc ("**NGET**") and a full Member of the Institute for Environmental Management and Assessment ("**IEMA**"). I have a Masters Degree in Environmental Technology from Imperial College London and a first class Bachelors Degree with honours in Biology from the University of York specialising in environmental and ecological topics.
- 1.2 I have been working on the Grain to Tilbury project for two and a half years, providing support during the optioneering process and throughout design stage in the lead up to the planning application submission in Dec 2023.
- 1.3 My role on the Grain to Tilbury tunnel replacement project ("**the Project**") was to provide consents management for the new electrical infrastructure and ancillary works including overhead line ("**OHL**") alterations.
- 1.4 My statement of evidence addresses the consenting position for the Project including the primary consents that are now in place and the proposed approach for successfully obtaining secondary consents once the Project is in delivery and that planning and other consenting matters do not present an impediment to the delivery of the Project.
- 1.5 I give evidence on behalf of the NGET in respect of the planning matters relevant to the Order (**CD C1**) having regard principally to the planning matters set out in the Guidance (**CD A1**) that are relevant to my evidence.
- 1.6 In my evidence I describe the Project by reference to the two planning applications for the Project submitted by NGET on 18th December 2023 (Planning application ref 20231313 and Planning permission ref. 23/01502/FUL).

- 1.7 Due to the opposing views of Thurrock Council and Gravesham Borough Council, NGET decided to treat the whole Project as EIA development and submitted an Environmental Statement to support both planning applications (extracts of which are at **CD B6**).
- 1.8 The Environmental Statement submitted with the planning applications for the Project concludes there will be no likely significant environmental effects (**CD B6**) and NGET confirms that it will commit to giving notice of intention to carry on the activity to the licensing authority before activity commences, therefore both conditions referred to at paragraph 3.8 are met.
- 1.9 The new OHL part of the Project is explained in the evidence of Dave Rogerson. New OHLs are consented via Section 37 of the 1989 Act. NGET submitted a section 37 consent application (ref 12.04.09.05-1933U) for the OHLs part of the Project to the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero on 21st June 2024 (copy at Appendix 2).
- 1.10 The Section 37 consent application is to be determined by Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. Insofar as the OHL works are to be undertaken on land which is not yet in NGET's control, it is envisaged that the Secretary of State will be in a position to co-ordinate the Section 37 and Order decisions.
- 1.11 A number of additional consents/licences will likely be required to facilitate the delivery of the Project, but these are not unusual and I expect them to be granted at the appropriate time. These include the following:
- 1.11.1 River Works Licence;
 - 1.11.2 Public Rights of Way temporary closure and diversions;
 - 1.11.3 Abstraction licence, flood risk activity permit, discharge consent, SSSI assent (depending on designation status by Natural England); materials management plan, groundwater activity permit; dewatering permit (depending on shaft construction

method); land drainage consent; and flood defence consent.

- 1.12 As set out in the evidence of Lee Driscoll, in 2022, NGET had identified three options for the Project and it sought feedback from key stakeholders on these options, including the Port of Tilbury London Limited, PLA, RSPB and the Environmental Agency.
- 1.13 As a consequence of the feedback, the headhouse was moved and the construction area also, this meant additional surveys were needed. NGET has also moved its proposed permanent lease area to accommodate the Port of Tilbury London Limited's proposals for a new cycle path and footway.
- 1.14 NGET also consulted extensively including holding a four-week public consultation which included in person and online events that ran from the 27 September 2023 to the 29 October 2023. Residents within the immediate vicinity of the Project received a newsletter with more information on the public consultation. Further, public information events took place at Tilbury (Tilbury Community Association) on 13 October 2023 and in Gravesend (Clarendon Royal Community) on 11 October 2023. The public consultation was also hosted on a Project website where residents and members of the public could register to attend to get more information. Two webinars were held, one which focussed on the proposed Project in Tilbury north of the River Thames, and one focussed on Gravesend south of the River Thames. In addition to the in-person events held and the online webinars, members of the public could provide feedback through a variety of means such as online, via email or via post. To raise awareness of the consultation within the local community: NGET distributed an invitation newsletter to over 11,000 homes and businesses in Tilbury and Gravesend, together with other identified stakeholders including elected representative.
- 1.15 A total of 4 objections were initially made to the Order but two objections (from the Port of Tilbury London Limited and Denton Wharf Property Limited) have since been withdrawn.

- 1.16 In my view, neither of the two remaining objections suggest that there is any impediment to the delivery of the Project or question my view that the remaining consents needed for the Project will be granted at the appropriate time.

2. Declaration

I confirm that the evidence prepared for this Inquiry and contained within this statement of evidence are my true and professional opinions. I confirm that I have understood and complied with my duty to the Inquiry as an Expert Witness and have provided my evidence impartially and objectively. I confirm that I have no conflicts of interest.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate McGregor', is shown within a light gray rectangular box.

Kate McGregor

13 May 2025