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Liz Wells MRTPI
Consents Manager
National Grid Ventures
1-3 The Strand
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18 August 2021

Dear Ms Wells,

**CONTINENTAL LINK MULTI-PURPOSE INTERCONNECTOR:
REQUEST FOR DIRECTION UNDER SECTION 35 OF PLANNING ACT 2008**

Thank you for your letter dated 28 June 2021 to the Secretary of State requesting the Secretary of State exercises powers under section 35 of the Planning Act 2008 to direct that certain UK elements for the proposed Continental Link Multi-Purpose Interconnector (MPI) project, a 1800MW High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) electricity link between the UK and Norway National Transmission Systems (NTS), is to be treated as development for which development consent is required under the Planning Act 2008.

The Secretary of State requested further clarification from National Grid Ventures on 9 July 2021 to assist in deciding whether to give the Direction sought. Further clarification was received from National Grid Ventures on 22 July 2021.

The Secretary of State has agreed to your request in that he considers that the proposed project in general should be dealt with as being nationally significant. However, the Secretary of State considers that the approach of selecting specific elements of the proposed Project to be the proposed Development subject to this direction is not necessary at this stage. The Secretary of State considers that, when further details are available, and before submitting any application to The Planning Inspectorate, National Grid Ventures may wish to seek confirmation from the Secretary of State that the project and development which is the subject of the proposed application is the same as that for which the Direction is hereby given. Alternatively, that would be a matter to be considered by the examining authority when the application is made.

A signed Direction to that effect is attached. This Direction is given without prejudice to the Secretary of State's consideration of any application for development consent which is made in relation to this proposed development

As there is currently no project page on The Planning Inspectorate's website, the Direction will be published on GOV.UK here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/energy-infrastructure-development-applications-decisions>. Also published with the signed Direction will be National Grid Ventures Direction request including a letter of support from East Riding of Yorkshire Council, the Secretary of State's request for further clarification from National Grid Ventures, and National Grid Ventures response to that request.

We would request that National Grid Ventures get in touch with The Planning Inspectorate as soon as possible to provide the necessary details of the proposed scheme so that a project page can be set up on its National Infrastructure website and for the Direction notice be subsequently published on that page.

Yours sincerely,

pp. Denise Libretto
Gareth Leigh
Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning