



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

By email: [Liz.wells@nationalgrid.com](mailto:Liz.wells@nationalgrid.com)

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29 April 2019

Dear Ms Wells,

**NAUTILUS INTERCONNECTOR: REQUEST FOR DIRECTION UNDER  
SECTION 35 PLANNING ACT 2008**

Thank you for your letter dated 4 March 2019 to the Secretary of State requesting the Secretary of State exercises powers under section 35 of the Planning Act 2008 to direct the UK converter station for the proposed Nautilus Interconnector between the UK and Belgium, as set out in the Direction request, be treated as development for which development consent is required.

The Secretary of State requested supplementary information from National Grid Ventures on 20 March 2019 to assist in deciding whether to give the Direction sought. Further information was received from National Grid Ventures on 4 April 2019.

I am pleased to inform you that the Secretary of State has agreed to your request. The Secretary of State notes, however, that the details of the proposed Development contained in the request of 4 March 2019 reflect the fact that it is at a relatively early stage of development. Consequently, the Secretary of State considers that, when further details are available, and before submitting any application to The Planning Inspectorate ("PINS"), 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 has been given.

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.



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As there is currently no project page on the PINS website, the Direction will be published on GOV.UK here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/energy-infrastructure-development-applications-decisions>. We would request that National Grid Ventures get in touch with PINS as soon as possible to provide the necessary details of the proposed scheme so that a project page can be set up and the Direction notice be subsequently published on that page.

Yours sincerely,

Gareth Leigh  
Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning