

South Woodham Ferrers Town Council

Response to National Grid East Anglia GREEN - Energy Enablement Consultation

Overview

- South Woodham Town Council (The Council) is not directly affected by route of the proposed new power connection between Norwich and Tilbury.
- The Council believes this non-statutory consultation should accept input that would allow for further development of a more strategic outcome that considers the total carrying capacity with East Anglia before the statutory consultation commences.
- The Council believes further analysis should be conducted and completed; taking into account any 'proposed' expansions at Sizewell and Bradwell as well as the off shore capacity, all of which, could lead to a better proposed transmission solution.
- The Council is directly affected by transmission requirement that will be needed for Bradwell B location, which is the primary precursor to The Council responding to this consultation. The current transmission to the Bradwell site (currently unused except for load balancing) runs right through the middle of a new development of >1200 homes (stp) and The Council is keen to explore and support any options that can remove the need for re-use or expansion of transmission capacity through the new urban areas of the town.
- The Council accepts that Bradwell B development is still in the pre-planning stage, but the latest 'steer' and guidance from the national government indicates that nuclear generating capacity will be returning to the Bradwell site. Whether politics allows for the current supplier to proceed with the delivery and construction project is perhaps now, the only undecided action.

Current Understanding (Bradwell B site)

The Bradwell Development Company (Bradwell) have confirmed that a new connection to the national grid is necessary. The total GW generating capacity for Bradwell is 2.2GW. Based on that information, we believe one of the following scenarios maybe true for new connectivity to the Bradwell B location.

- a) A new overhead connection is provided following a similar route to the current one. This transmission line will run right through the new urban area of South Woodham Ferrers.
- b) A new overhead connection is provided that routes around the new urban area South Woodham Ferrers, then the Town Council would prefer the existing path through the town parish to also be re-routed away from the residential areas.
- c) A new overhead connection could follow a shorter route crossing under the Blackwater and joining the grid infrastructure further along towards Colchester. In this case, the power lines through the new urban area of South Woodham Ferrers could be removed.
- d) The 2.2 GW electricity cable is a standard delivery size now and technology and building costs are much more understood. A grid connection from the Bradwell B location could be

run as an underseas cable straight down the coast to the Thames estuary and round to the major east London primary tiers at Tilbury or such. In this scenario, the current capacity through the planned new urban area of South Woodham Ferrers could be removed.

- e) A second overhead connection could be provided on a totally different overland route, and power distribution balanced between the existing connection and the new connection.

Observations

The Council believes this consultation should take into considerations of the requirements to service the Bradwell B location with a more cohesive strategy for transmission capacity to service the off-shore and the whole region of East Anglia, something we feel is lacking in the current proposals.

The Town Council believe these proposals demonstrate a somewhat knee-jerk reaction to a capacity problem and read more as a 'we just have to get this link in' and nothing else matters. The fact that the proposals indicate routing underground but only in 'Constable' country seem nothing more than offering an incentive to drive the rest of the overground route through. The Council believes the consultation lacks any cohesive synergies with the current power generation strategy for the local off-shore and Easter Anglia region.

The proposed new sub station (North East area of Bromley Cross) could be more strategically considered so it could also service the second capacity link that is required for the Bradwell B location. Since further connectivity will be required from Bromley Cross to the off-shore connectivity, The Town council believes more consultation should be carried out for combining the off-shore requirements with the requirements of the second link that is required from the Bradwell B location.

Conclusions

We would ask that serious consideration be given to re-evaluating the currently proposals for the Norwich Tilbury link. We would like to see an integrated, and thought-through set of proposals that will demonstrate an efficient transmission system design, that takes into account all planned and proposed power generation capacity for East Anglia, right down to the Thames Estuary.

We would like to see more consideration given for an off-shore based routing of a transmission systems, as whilst we are no experts, we believe this could actually provide a similar capacity, link all the proposed new strategic power generating locations, and avoid eliminate all the majority objections for the visual stain that pylons create for communities near or along their routes.

We would ask that serious considerations are explored and given to handling the second connection required to service the Bradwell B location in conjunction with these East Anglia GREEN proposals to minimise further disruption.

Planning & Environment
South Woodham Ferrers – Town Council.