

19th December 2012

Nigel Richardson
Assistant Director (Development)
Directorate of Planning & Economic Development
Epping Forest District Council
Civic Offices, High Street
Epping
CM16 4BZ

Dear Mr Richardson,

**Re: North London Reinforcement Project –Representations
Planning Inspectorate reference EN020009
Our Ref: NLRPR11.1**

I write with reference to your representation to the Planning Inspectorate concerning the National Grid (North London Reinforcement Project) Order for which an application has been made to the Secretary of State for a development consent order under the Planning Act 2008.

Further to my letter of 10 December and following our telephone conversation on 18 December I set out below further clarification as to why the hard standing at Waltham Cross substation can not be used for landscaping.

The North London Reinforcement Project is a scheme to increase the power flows into central London by uprating one of the two existing overhead lines from Waltham Cross to Tottenham from 275kV (275,000 volts) to 400kV (400,000volts) which is the ZBC route. This uprating requires that the existing 275kV substation is extended to accommodate the proposed 400kV equipment. The ZBC overhead line route terminates at Tottenham 275kV substation and as Tottenham is to remain at 275kV the intention is to bypass Tottenham substation with a section of buried cable to connect to the VC overhead line route that currently connects Tottenham to Hackney substation where transformer changes will be required from the existing 275/66kV to 400/66kV to maintain the supply to UK Power Networks.

The ZBD overhead line route runs parallel to the ZBC overhead line route from Waltham Cross to Tottenham and operates at 275kV which means that the control building and 50% of the high voltage equipment will still be required, furthermore, whilst National Grid is proposing to decommission the assets associated with the redundant 275kV overhead line route we still have a significant number of below ground services that need to remain operational, a new pylon, ZBC 1B, is also to be built in this area of the site. As a result, National Grid can not break up the 'redundant' hard standing and plant in this area because it remains operational land.

There are a number of planting initiatives proposed as mitigation measures around the substation. The exact details of which are to be formally agreed with Lee Valley Regional Park Authority. National Grid is also funding a number of enhanced mitigation measures in the Lee Valley Regional Park close to the overhead line route.

I hope that in light of the contents of this letter you will be reassured that National Grid providing mitigation measures, including planting initiatives around Waltham Cross Substation but that this is not possible to do so on land that remains operational. I should be grateful if you would confirm to me in writing by 31 December 2012 that we have addressed your concerns and that Epping Forest District Council will be able to withdraw its representation with the Planning Inspectorate

Should you have any questions regarding the above or wish further clarification please do not hesitate to contact me.

Securing our energy supply for future generations.