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**Date:** 25 June 2019  
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**By hand delivery**

Dear Sir

**The National Grid Viking Link Limited (Viking Link Interconnector) Compulsory Purchase Order 2019 ("the CPO")**

Further to our letter of 13 June 2019 which responded to the Pre-Inquiry Note, we set out below the steps taken by National Grid Viking Link Limited ("the Acquiring Authority") to comply with the statutory requirements as set out in the Acquisition of Land Act 1981 ("the 1981 Act"), the Compulsory Purchase of Land (Prescribed Forms) (Ministers) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 2004 No.2595) ("the 2004 Regulations") and the Compulsory Purchase (Inquiries Procedure) Rules 2007 ("the 2007 Rules").

1. We confirm that the CPO has been prepared by the Acquiring Authority in the Form numbered 1 in the 2004 Regulations. The CPO was sealed and dated 15 January 2019.
2. Notice of the Making of the CPO in the Form numbered 7 in the 2004 Regulations was published in two issues of the Boston Standard and Sleaford Target dated 23 and 30 January 2019 and two issues of the Lincolnshire Echo dated 24 and 31 January 2019. A copy of the published Notice appears at **Appendix 1** to this letter. Copies of the relevant pages from the above editions appear at **Appendices 2 and 3** to this letter. The time allowed for objections was in excess of 21 days from the first date of the first publication of the Notice, i.e. until 19 February 2019.
3. Site Notices of the Making of the CPO in the Form numbered 7 in the 2004 Regulations and addressed to "Persons occupying or having an interest in the land described below" were posted at conspicuous places on the Order Land as shown in blue and marked "GN" on the plan at **Appendix 4** to this letter. A copy of the Form of Notice appears at **Appendix 5**.
4. Notices of the Making of the CPO in the Form numbered 8 in the 2004 Regulations were duly served on every owner, tenant, occupier and qualifying person in relation to all land compromised within the CPO, in accordance with section 6(1) of the 1981 Act. A copy of the Notice appears at **Appendix 6**. The time allowed for objections was in excess of 21 days, i.e. until 19 February 2019.
5. The Notices referred to in paragraph 4 above were served by Special Delivery post on 23 January 2019. A sample letter delivering such Notices appears at **Appendix 7** to this letter. A copy of the Acquiring Authority's Statement of Reasons was served with each Notice.

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6. In relation to those plots of land where the identity of an owner, lessee, tenant or occupier, or qualifying persons pursuant to sections 12(12A)(b) of the 1981 Act was unknown, a Notice of the Making of the CPO was posted on or near the plot in question in a conspicuous place on the Order Land shown in purple and marked "UN" on the plan at **Appendix 4** on 23 January 2019 and maintained until 19 February 2019. A copy of such Notice can be found at **Appendix 8**.
7. At **Appendix 9** is a table which provides evidence of posting and subsequent maintenance of all the Site Notices referred to in paragraph 3, and the Unknown Notices referred to in paragraph 6 above.
8. Attached at **Appendix 10** is a copy of the General Certificate submitted in respect of the CPO.
9. Copies of the CPO, the Map and Statement of Reasons and documents referred to therein were deposited at the following locations, where they will remain available for inspection, until the close of the Public Inquiry:
  - Planning Department, East Lindsey District Council, Room 51 Tedder Hall, Manby Park, Manby Louth, Lincolnshire, LN11 8UP;
  - Planning Department, South Holland District Council, Priory Road, Spalding, PE11 2XE;
  - Planning Department, North Kesteven District Council, Kesteven Street, Sleaford, NG34 7EF; and
  - Planning Department, Boston Borough Council, Municipal Buildings, West Street, Boston, Lincolnshire, PE21 8QR.
10. A copy of NGVL's Statement of Case was sent to BEIS, PINS and each remaining objector<sup>1</sup> on 2 May 2019. A sample cover letter delivering the Statement of Case by Special Delivery appears at **Appendix 11**. The covering letter also contained a hyperlink to the inquiry documents library maintained by National Grid at: <http://viking-link.com/documents/>.
11. A letter confirming the date of and venue for public inquiry, which was sent by BEIS on 18 April 2019 appears at **Appendix 12**.
12. NGVL's proofs and summary proofs of evidence were served by courier on each remaining objector on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019, 3 weeks in advance of the start of the inquiry in accordance with Rule 15 of the 2007 Rules. A copy of the sample letter is attached at **Appendix 13**.
13. In accordance with Rule 11 of the 2007 Rules, notices confirming the holding of an Inquiry into the CPO were posted on site within the Order Land on [date]. A copy of the Inquiry Notice appears at **Appendix 14**. The notices were placed in conspicuous locations. A copy of the Inquiry Notice was also posted in the planning reception at East Lindsey District Council, South Holland District Council, North Kesteven District Council and Boston Borough Council being a place in the locality in which the land is situated where notices are usually posted.
14. A copy of the same Inquiry Notice was published in the Boston Standard and Boston Target on 29 May 2019, and in the Lincolnshire Echo on 30 May 2019. A copy of the relevant pages of the above editions of the Boston Standard, Boston Target and Lincolnshire Echo appear at **Appendix 15** to this letter.

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<sup>1</sup> As defined within section 13A of the 1981 Act.

15. If confirmed, the CPO will authorise the compulsory acquisition of new rights over land which forms part of an open space, as defined in the Acquisition of Land Act 1981; that is, land used for the purposes of public recreation. A certificate is being sought by the Acquiring Authority from the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, to authorise the compulsory acquisition of rights over the open space land under the CPO. The Secretary of State is minded to grant the certificate and by letter dated 30 April 2019 (**Appendix 16**) directed the Acquiring Authority to issue notice to that effect. The form of notice was agreed with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and was displayed at conspicuous locations in the vicinity of the open space land shown on the plan at **Appendix 4** on 12 June 2019 and will remain in situ until the inquiry start date. A copy of the notice was also posted in the reception at Sutton on Sea library on 12 June 2019 and will remain in situ until the inquiry start date.
16. The same notice was served on all persons who received the Notice of the Making of the CPO in respect of their interest in the open space land on 12 June 2019. A sample cover letter delivering the notice by Special Delivery appears at **Appendix 17**.
17. A copy of the same notice was published in the Lincolnshire Echo on 13 June and again on 20 June 2019 (**Appendix 18**). A copy of the notice was published in the Boston Standard on 19 June (**Appendix 19**) and again on 26 June 2019. A copy of the relevant page of the final edition of the Boston Standard will be provided as soon as available.

Should the Inspector require any further information regarding the Statutory or Regulatory requirements he should contact Fiona Barker of our offices.

Yours faithfully

*Eversheds Sutherland (International) LLP*

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