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National Farmers' Union Comments: EGL 3 and EGL 4 Transmission Project Consultation – July 2024

The NFU represents over 45,000 members across England and Wales. In addition, we have 20,000 NFU Countryside members with an interest in farming and rural life. The NFU would like to make the following points in regard to the National Grid Eastern Green Link (EGL) 3 and 4 project, for consideration for the further development of the project.

1. **Consultation with Landowners** – The NFU notes that National Grid (NG) have appointed Ardent to liaise directly with affected landowners and make contact to verify publicly available information. The NFU would like to know whether there have been any in-person meetings with affected landowners yet. The NFU feel strongly that NG need to consult fully with landowners affected by any onshore apparatus and cable construction works.

The NFU would also like to see discussions regarding private agreements taking place as early as possible to enable these discussions to progress ahead of the submission of the DCO.

2. **Substation/Converter Station Locations** –



will also now impact them. Aside from the physical disruption to their business activities, the affected landowner is spending a significant amount of unpaid time dealing with all these projects.

While the Project Background Document (pg 13) states that some of the impacts with other NG Projects have been accounted for in the Grimsby to Walpole and North Humber to High Marnham projects' Strategic Options Report, the NFU believe that NG should be far more transparent in communicating these potential impacts and how they will work with affected farmers and landowners to reduce them.

The NFU would also like to know how NG are working with the operators of other projects in regard to their planning of this



10. **Heat Dissipation** – Heat dissipation, which can impact the land for the lifetime of the project, is a concern among farmers affected by the scheme. We have seen examples of heat dissipation on previous underground cable schemes, and they can have a significant impact on the crops growing in affected fields, such as crops growing at different rates, significantly complicating agricultural operations.

Please can you confirm the measures taken to reduce the impact of heat dissipation on the scheme?

11. **Biodiversity Net Gain** – The NFU would like to know how NG are intending to deliver Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) on this project. On Page 50 of the Project Background Document, it states that NG are committed to achieving a biodiversity net gain of at least 10% across the project. It further states that “this may be delivered on site or off site through habitat creation and/or enhancement1

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