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I write to update you as a local resident (on the electoral roll) regarding proposed local energy projects.

As has been the case for the past eighteen months (if not years), this is a rolling situation which is starting to come to a head as pre-consultation processes have finished and developers are submitting or finalising their planning applications into the national process. I would not expect any decision to be made till at least December 2020 on the SPR windfarms nor till 2021 on Sizewell C. There will be a formal process for each including a public inquiry. More details about the process are available online e.g.

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/east-anglia-one-north-offshore-windfarm/>

I have held two public meetings this year and have continued to work with local councillors and council officers on this issue. The county and district councils have very regular contact with EDF and SPR on the proposals undertaking detailed discussions through council officers. As an observer at the joint local authority group, I have shared the ongoing discussions as well as facilitated meetings and discussions with ministers, government officials and organisations like Network Rail. While I have stepped down as Chair of the Suffolk Energy Coast Delivery Board, I am still a member and joined the latest meeting last week pressing the case with government officials on various matters which I and the council will pursue.

The most recent meeting I had was with Energy Minister, Kwasi Kwarteng, bringing officers and officials to press the case regarding the cumulative impact of the energy projects, the lack of a joined-up approach regarding energy connections and infrastructure as well as the need to address the significant impact on the local environment, communities and businesses. I have also discussed these issues with the Secretary of State, Andrea Leadsom. She understands the concerns that I have on how these projects are being proposed to be implemented, even though she knows that I support renewable and zero carbon nuclear energy – which both need to become well established as the major source of energy to help tackle climate change.

My interaction with the regulator Ofgem and also National Grid have not been as fruitful as I would like but I will keep pursuing both organisations. Most recently, I was horrified when I learned that National Grid had granted a further connection in the Sizewell area to wind farms being expanded. I am pursuing this in particular as there is no clarity on what other connection infrastructure may be needed. I will also be making representations to the Planning Inspectorate to reject SPR applications being put forward separately and for them to be submitted and considered as one single application.

While environment minister, I had already set in place the inclusion of Defra into the cross-government group to consider the environmental impact of offshore and onshore windfarms. The environmental measures introduced by the government have tightened up the regime under which both EDF and SPR operate. I am proud of that work and will continue to ensure these are given high priority. I have met both Natural England and Environment Agency specifically about Sizewell C. Informed by that discussion, I still think the jury is out on whether the environment questions can be sufficiently answered by EDF prior to their application.

To reiterate, I am strongly opposed to SPR's proposals for onshore infrastructure and will fight them during the Development Consent Order process. On Sizewell C, I strongly oppose the road-led strategy and strongly support the rail-led strategy. In both cases, the impact on the local community and environment must be addressed.

We are about to start a general election and as of 6<sup>th</sup> November, I will still be a minister but not an MP until after the 12<sup>th</sup> December election, if I am re-elected. I will update my website and Facebook. Councillors and council officers will continue to work on the ongoing issues.

Yours sincerely,