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1. More on the proposed giant (40 acre) Triton Knoll substation, following news305. The RWE and NG developments are being treated as “de-coupled”, though (see also below) they clearly are absolutely and inextricably coupled. East Lindsey District Council has objected (letter 13-5-10 from David Loveday). Site search for Triton Knoll at

<http://www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/>

2. Treating the coupled projects as de-coupled would thwart the intentions of the EU Environmental Impact Directive, by obscuring the total impact while gaining approval in stages. It will be important to clarify the links between these projects.

3. National Grid list three major infrastructure projects on their website: Hinkley Point, Bramford-Twinstead and King's Lynn. The first two are for substantial new lines. The King's Lynn line would be a short (2 to 5 km) connection of a proposed power station to an existing 400kV line just south of King's Lynn. No line from Grimsby to Boston is mentioned. Site search for Boston, Grimsby, Triton or Knoll yield no relevant occurrences.

4. National Grid helpfully maintains a Seven Year Statement of potential future developments:

<http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Electricity/SYS/>

Under the longer term developments, obscurely listed in Appendix B Table B.7c for 2018/19, there is an entry:

“Construct a new 400kV GIS substation at Mumby. Construct a new L13, 55km, 400kV double-circuit overhead line route from Mumby to Bicker Fen”.

Further entries show this is to receive 1200MW from Triton Knoll in three 400MW stages between 2018 and 2020. Although the geographic location is not clear, there is a Mumby a few miles north of Skegness on the A52, 3 or 4 miles from the proposed RWE Triton Knoll substation sites.

5. Since the RWE substation cannot function without a connection to the NG grid, and since the NG Seven Year Statement expressly lists a new Mumby substation for 2018 to connect the 1200MW from Triton Knoll, it does seem unreasonable that the RWE and NG substations should be treated separately. Clearly the one will absolutely prejudice the case for the other. Both should be assessed together, so that the intent of the EU Directive can be upheld, namely to avoid fragmenting the apparent impact thus gaining approval in stages by stealth. That's what some might call “dirty tricks”.

6. There has been talk of a possible NG line from Grimsby West down East Lincolnshire to Bicker Fen near Boston, linking to the Triton Knoll / Mumby substation on the way. That might be argued as “deep” grid reinforcement. However, the NG Seven Year Statement appears not to mention such a development (“Grimsby” is not found in word search of Table B.7.c), and the Mumby – Bicker Fen line is presented exclusively for the Triton Knoll connection.

7. Document ENSGR 2009-026 of the Electricity Networks Strategy Group is the technical supporting document to the industry-government “Vision for 2020” (news283, 293). It shows strategic options for connections in East Lincolnshire. The best overall option (Option 2 of Table 8.2), also with least total cost, is for HVDC cables from a new substation near Killingholme (near Grimsby) to Walpole (near King’s Lynn). Overhead line AC options include Grimsby West to Walpole but are not preferred. A summary map is at Figure 8.6 on page 98/151. Such a HVDC solution would avoid the need for a major substation at “Mumby” and the overhead line to Bicker Fen, so why has the NG Seven Year Statement introduced this? There is no mention of “Mumby” in ENSGR 2009-026.

8. Lincolnshire County Council (Environment Scrutiny Committee 3-9-10) has also noted “serious concerns about the onshore substation's overall impact on a relatively flat and sensitive rural landscape” and that the proposed sites “should be resisted”.

9. Objectors to the Triton Knoll substation have been very active recently. There will be parish council meetings at Welton Village Hall on 13 September, Willoughby Village Hall on 16 September and another public information / exhibition in Willoughby Village Hall on Tuesday 21st September from 3.30 to 8.30. A web site is under development at <http://notritonknollsubstation.webs.com/>