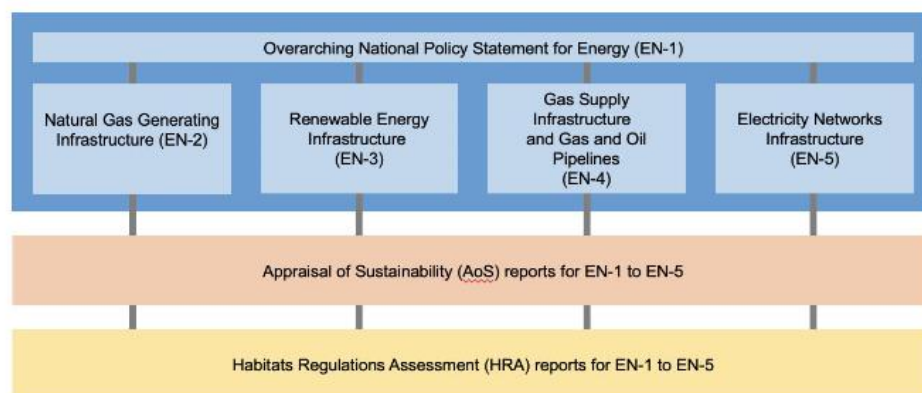


## **REA Members Brief:** ***Planning for New Energy Infrastructure Draft National Policy Statements for Energy Infrastructure***

REA member, we are updating you on a consultation that has recently been launched by BEIS. The energy National Policy Statements (NPS) consultation has been launched due to significant changes to the government's energy policy since the initial establishment of the NPS in 2011. The NPSs provide the framework from which decision-makers can make legally robust and timely decisions. Closing date 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2021

### **Structure of energy NPS document package subject to consultation:**



As this diagram illustrates, EN1-5 are being considered for review. EN-6 is excluded as this concerns the planning and consent regime for nuclear projects being deployed before 2025.

- EN1 is over concern for REA members as it relates to the government's energy and climate policy and forms the context for decisions which the secretary of state will take decisions on applications for nationally significant infrastructure. The need for clean and renewable technology at a national scale is seen as urgent.
- EN2 covers the phasing out of coal and oil-fired power stations, and addresses requirements for gas-fired power stations. This requirement includes CCS. Notably, this section leaves the potential for hydrogen in the network open-ended, pending the hydrogen strategy. A question in the consultation addresses whether these measures with relation to hydrogen are sufficient.
- EN3 includes an expanded section on pumped hydro and solar PV. In a similar way to hydrogen, this section provides guidance on tidal stream energy, but due to the evolving nature of the technology more specific environmental standards have not been established.

- EN4 includes impacts and considerations which are specific to the import, storage and transmission of gas and oil. References to the governments ambition for CCS and hydrogen infrastructure are included in the introduction.
- EN5 this covers electricity network infrastructure, specifically overhead electricity lines and associated substations. However this section does not included energy storage which is a key part of flexibility required for the grid in the future.

***Consultation response:***

- The consultation response is broken down into sections to reflect the different policy areas. The questions broadly ask whether the information in the proposed document accurately reflects the governments stated aims for energy and climate targets.

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