



Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

Michael Shanks MP
Minister for Energy

Department for Energy Security
& Net Zero
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Bill Esterson
Chair of the Energy Security and Net Zero Committee
House of Commons
London
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26 June 2025

Dear Bill,

I am writing to inform you that the Department laid a Written Ministerial Statement today outlining the decision to not offer support to the Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project (MUPP).

Xlinks presented the government with a proposal to supply up to 3.6GW of renewable electricity exclusively to Great Britain from Morocco. The Morocco – UK Power Project aims to generate electricity from 11.5GW of wind and solar PV, supplemented by 5GW/22.5GWh of battery storage. This electricity would be transmitted from the Guelmim-Oued Noun region in Morocco to the British grid at Alverdiscott in North Devon via two 4000km High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) subsea bipoles, passing through the waters of Spain, Portugal, and France.

Xlinks had requested a 25-year contract for difference under section 10 of the Energy Act 2013 to guarantee a set price per MWh of electricity supplied to Great Britain for the life of the contract.

As you are aware, a team of officials within the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero has engaged with Xlinks closely to understand the details of the proposal and has been working across government to evaluate the viability and merits of the project. This evaluation has considered if and how the project could support the government's strategic objectives and the risks which could impact the successful delivery of it.

The government has concluded that it is not in the UK national interest at this time to continue further consideration of support for the project. The government has concluded the project does not clearly align strategically with the government's mission to build homegrown power here in the UK.

This would be a first of a kind mega project which has a high level of inherent, cumulative risk (delivery, operational, and security). We acknowledge the excellent work of Xlinks on trying to mitigate these risks where possible but nevertheless, this remains a factor in decision-making.

Ultimately, we have determined there are stronger alternative options that we should focus our attention on to meet the government's plans to decarbonise the power sector and accelerate to net zero at least risk to billpayers and taxpayers. The government also believes that domestic alternatives can see greater economic benefits whether that be through jobs or supply chains.

I hope you will find this helpful.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael Shanks" with a stylized flourish at the end. The signature is written on a light-colored background.

Michael Shanks MP
Minister for Energy