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Consultation results published on updated plans for a new cross channel electricity connection

Public feedback helps shapes plans for new Anglo-French energy link

06 May 2016

- Local views shared on plans for a new electricity link between Great Britain and France
- Attendance at recent consultation was 50 per cent higher than the first consultation in December 2015
- Feedback has helped inform an outline planning application due to be submitted on Monday 9 May.

Over 670 people attended the second round of consultation on plans for a new electricity link between Great Britain and France.

The proposed IFA2 interconnector consists of high voltage undersea and underground cables connected to a converter station and an electricity substation in both Hampshire and Normandy.

Revised plans for the project were presented at five events held in Fareham and Gosport in March as well as an event for fisheries stakeholders in Portsmouth. Visitors got to see details including building design and landscaping, cable routes and installation options.

Feedback given has helped shape an outline planning application with people's preferences regarding the appearance of the converter station and additional vegetation planting for screening purposes being factored in. The application is due to be submitted to Fareham Council and the Marine Management Organisation on Monday 9 May.

Morris Bray from National Grid IFA2 Ltd, said: "We're very pleased to have seen attendance at exhibitions increase by 50 per cent compared to our first consultation.

"It was great to have people come and share their views and we received some very helpful feedback."

He added: "We've considered all the feedback received during the consultation period which has helped inform our outline planning application."

He added: "We're committed to ongoing communication with local people and organisations."

The results of both stages of IFA2's consultation will be published in a Consultation Report to the Marine Management Organisation as well as accompanying the outline planning application to Fareham Borough Council.

People will also be able to give feedback on the plans through statutory consultations to be held by the local planning authority.

For more information, call the project team on 0800 0194 576 or email info@ifa2interconnector.com . or visit the website – www.ifa2interconnector.com

Contact for media information only

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Notes for editors

Consultation Results

A full report on the feedback received can be found here - <http://ifa2.nationalgrid.com/feedback-report/>

Interconnectors

To meet rising energy demands, National Grid is increasingly looking to join the UK's electricity transmission system to other countries' electricity networks via interconnectors. Links with France, known as IFA (Interconnexion France Angleterre), and the Netherlands, known as BritNed, are in operation. In addition, links with Belgium, known as Nemo Link, and with Norway, known as North Sea Link, are under construction. A link with Denmark, called Viking Link, is in development.

An interconnector allows countries to exchange power, helping to ensure safe, secure and affordable energy supplies. It is made up of two converter stations – one in each country – connected by cables. Converter stations convert electricity between Alternating Current (AC) and Direct Current (DC). AC is used on land, to power our homes, businesses and services, while DC is used for sending electricity along the high voltage subsea cables.

National Grid IFA2 Ltd is the holder of an interconnector licence and is the company that National Grid Interconnectors Limited has formed to develop and bring forward the IFA2 project. We are legally separate from other companies within National Grid. This is enforced by the energy regulator Ofgem.

National Grid IFA2 Ltd is a separate legal entity to National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (NGET). NGET is a separate company responsible for the works to connect the interconnector project to the existing national grid; by law the grid connection works must be kept separate from the interconnector and one company cannot develop both.

For the purposes of connecting to the existing electricity network, National Grid IFA2 Ltd is a customer of NGET and National Grid IFA2 Ltd can only connect in accordance with a connection offer made by NGET. National Grid IFA2 Ltd does not get preferential treatment.

Reseau de Transport d'Electricite (RTE) is the French network owner and operator and RTE will be National Grid IFA2 Ltd's partner on this project. RTE will have responsibility for the French elements of the project.

What is an interconnector?

IFA2 will be an electricity interconnector. This is a connection between the electricity transmission systems of different countries. An interconnector allows countries to exchange power, helping to ensure safe, secure and affordable energy supplies. For IFA2 the connection will be made via high voltage subsea cables, passing through French and British waters. In simple terms, an interconnector is made up of two converter stations – one in each country – connected by cables. Great Britain is an island so we must use high voltage subsea cables.

Our electricity transmission system operates independently from continental Europe. An interconnector needs converter stations and substations to make it possible to connect these independent transmission systems.

A converter station converts electricity between Alternating Current (AC) and Direct Current (DC). AC is used in each country's transmission system, while DC is used for sending electricity along the high voltage subsea cables. A substation is a point of connection to the national electricity network. National Grid Electricity Transmission plc is a separate company, with responsibility for work to connect to the existing national electricity network.

Notes to Editors:

National Grid is pivotal to the energy systems in the UK and the north eastern United States. We aim to serve customers well and efficiently, supporting the communities in which we operate and making possible the energy systems of the future.

National Grid in the UK:

- We own and operate the electricity transmission network in England and Wales, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. We also operate, but do not own, the Scottish networks. Our networks comprise approximately 7,200 kilometres (4,474 miles) of overhead line, 1,500 kilometres (932 miles) of underground cable and 342 substations.
- We own and operate the gas National Transmission System in Great Britain, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. Our network comprises approximately 7,660 kilometres (4,760 miles) of high-pressure pipe and 618 above-ground installations.
- As Great Britain's System Operator (SO) we make sure gas and electricity is transported safely and efficiently from where it is produced to where it is consumed. From April 2019, Electricity System Operator (ESO) is a new standalone business within National Grid, legally separate from all other parts of the National Grid Group. This will provide the right environment to deliver a balanced and impartial ESO that can realise real benefits for consumers as we transition to a more decentralised, decarbonised electricity system.
- Other UK activities mainly relate to businesses operating in competitive markets outside of our core regulated businesses; including interconnectors, gas metering activities and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation terminal – all of which are now part of National Grid Ventures. National Grid Property is responsible for the management, clean-up and disposal of surplus sites in the UK. Most of these are former gas works.

Find out more about the energy challenge and how National Grid is helping find solutions to some of the challenges we face at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/news>

National Grid undertakes no obligation to update any of the information contained in this release, which speaks only as at the date of this release, unless required by law or regulation.

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