

National Grid continues to spread the word about connections project

National Grid plans to connect new sources of electricity into 'the grid' in Cumbria and Lancashire while, behind the scenes, work is done to analyse feedback from the recent public consultation exercise.

19 Mar 2015

The company has briefed the West Lakes University of the Third Age (U3A) on plans to connect the proposed new nuclear power station, Moorside, near Sellafield in West Cumbria into the existing electricity transmission system and to export power generated by other energy projects in the North West.

Robert Powell, Project Manager said: "We're continuing to talk to local groups and organisations about our proposals, even though the first phase of our public consultation on the project is complete.

"We are keen to help local groups to understand the importance of the North West Coast Connections project and to work with us in continuing to develop our proposals so they can help us shape our plans."

National Grid is working to analyse all the comments received during the 12 week consultation exercise held in autumn last year. In the coming months, the company plans to publish a report on the consultation findings and to indicate which option it will be taking forward for further development.

The company received over 1,200 responses to the consultation on the options it presented for making new connections into the electricity transmission network. This includes 70 responses from local authorities and parish councils and 80 responses from a wide range of other bodies including the Lake District National Park, Friends of the Lake District, Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency.

Mr. Powell added: "The information provided will help us decide which of the options we have consulted on is taken forward for further development. The feedback will also help us review and refine that option. All the feedback we've received during consultation will be published on our project website although the names of the individuals and organisations that provided the feedback will not be disclosed.

"We expect to carry out further public consultation in 2016. This will focus on the route we select for the new connections, the technology we propose to use to make the connections and its positioning along the route, and the mitigation we can use to reduce the impact of our work in specific locations.

"In the meantime, we'll continue to work with local authorities and other bodies to develop our plans. We also anticipate setting up localised working groups so we can work more directly with communities to look in more detail at the different factors to be taken into account as we finalise the route for the new connections."

National Grid is also starting to conduct a wide range of surveys to gather information on birds and wildlife and the environment. The company has started to identify and contact the owners of the land along the routes being considered to discuss getting access to carry out this work.

The company will be seeking to submit an application for consent to build the new connections to the Planning Inspectorate in 2017. A decision will then be made by the Secretary of State for the Department of Energy and Climate Change. If consent is granted, construction work will start. NuGen has asked National Grid to provide the first phase of the connection into its transmission network by 2024.

People wishing to be notified of the outcome of the recent consultation and the option being taken forward are asked to register their details on the North West Coast Connections website:

www.northwestcoastconnections.com People registering their details will also be sent updates on the project and information on further engagement opportunities.

For further information about the project please contact the project team direct using any of the following methods:

- Freephone: 0800 876 6990
- Email: nationalgrid@northwestcoastconnections.com
- Freepost: FREEPOST NG NWCC

Contact for media information only

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Notes for editors

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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