

National Grid submits application for Richborough Connection project

Plans for the Richborough Connection submitted to the Planning Inspectorate

14 Jan 2016

- National Grid submits Richborough Connection application to Planning Inspectorate
- Planning Inspectorate will decide if the application can go forward for examination by a panel of examining inspectors
- UK Power Networks' existing 132kV overhead line still to be removed as part of the proposed scheme

National Grid has today (Thursday 14 January 2016) delivered its application to the Planning Inspectorate to build a new overhead line connection between Richborough and Canterbury. The connection will join Nemo Link®, an electricity link between the UK and Belgium to National Grid's existing high voltage network in Canterbury. Connections like this are vital to make sure that the UK has a safe, secure and reliable supply of electricity to keep the lights on.

Having listened to the views of landowners, tenants, the local community and stakeholders, as well as looking at the results of technical and environmental studies, National Grid has made some changes to its plans. These include moving the proposed route north of UK Power Networks' lines in the Ash Level to minimise the impact on the local environment and wildlife, in particular birds. The route has also been moved around the campsite at Nethergong as a result of protected species being identified through National Grid surveys and the feedback received. UK Power Networks' existing 132kV overhead line would still be removed as part of the scheme.

Steve Self, project manager said, "We value your feedback and would like to thank all those who have contributed to the consultation. We believe our final proposal strikes the right balance between everything we've been told, the planning and environmental guidelines we have to follow and the engineering needed to build the connection."

From tomorrow (Friday 15 January 2016), the Planning Inspectorate has 28 days to decide if the application has met the right standard to proceed to examination. If accepted, the Planning Inspectorate will then examine the application and at that point those with an interest in the project will be told how they can register as an Interested Party to be involved in the process and provide their views. The examination process will last up to six months and after it has ended, the Planning

Inspectorate has a further three months to make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether or not Development Consent should be given. The Secretary of State then has a further three months to make the final decision.

Full details of the application including copies of all our studies, reports, maps and plans will be available on the Planning Inspectorate's website shortly (<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/richborough-connection-project/>).

For further queries please contact National Grid's community relations team on 0800 157 7878 or visit www.richboroughconnection.co.uk.

Contact for media information only

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Notes for editors

For more information about the Richborough Connection project, please visit National Grid's project website www.richboroughconnection.co.uk or follow us on Twitter: @NGRichborough

Project background

Our project includes the following key elements:

- Construction of a 20km 400kV overhead line and pylons
- The removal of an existing 132kV UK Power Networks overhead line
- Localised temporary and permanent diversions of existing lower voltage overhead lines in the area, where our new proposed route would cross.
- Other works such as temporary access roads, highway works, temporary construction compounds, protective scaffold structures and work sites

Nemo Link Limited

Nemo Link Limited is a joint project between National Grid International Ltd – a separately regulated National Grid company – and the Belgian electricity transmission system operator Elia.

Under the law Nemo Link must be treated the same as any other company applying to connect to the electricity transmission system.

For more information on this project go to www.nemo-link.com

For media information only on Nemo Link contact:

Isobel Rowley

07917 211116

isobel.rowley@nationalgrid.com

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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