Transformer takes to the road en route to West Midlands

A transformer is being moved from docks in Ellesmere Port to Willenhall substation in the West Midlands between Sunday and Tuesday.

17 Aug 2018

- **New transformer to be delivered to Willenhall substation**
- **170 tonne piece of equipment will keep electricity flowing across the Midlands**
- **Delivery carefully planned to keep traffic moving**

A big load will take to the road at approximately 8.00am on Sunday 19 August as National Grid moves a new transformer from Ellesmere Port to Willenhall substation, in west Midlands.It is expected to arrive at the substation by 1.00am on Tuesday 21 August after making a 24 hour stop.

The new piece of equipment which measures 8.2m long x 5.2m wide x 4.4m high and weighs in at 170 tonnes will be installed at the substation to help National Grid continue to deliver electricity to homes and businesses across midlands and beyond.

Most of National Grid's substations were built between the 1950s and 1970s and equipment such as transformers need to be replaced to keep them working efficiently. New transformers are also installed to connect new sources of generation or when demand for electricity is growing.

Ben McKenzie-Williams, National Grid Project Engineer said: "Our network operates smoothly, safely and efficiently over 99.9999% of the time – a statistic we're very proud of. Millions of people rely on us to supply their electricity without interruption, day in, day out and so it's important that we keep our substations and the equipment in them working efficiently."

The new transformer will be carried on a special transporter measuring 67 meters long and 5.3 meters wide. It will travel at around 10 miles an hour and will take the following route:

The transformer will leave Ellesmere Port in Cheshire via the A5032 to join the M53 at junction 9, and travel east until it reaches the M6. It will then travel south on the M6 to junction 10, where it will come off onto the A454, travel along it until it meets the A463 at the Keyway roundabout. It will come off the roundabout onto the B4484, travel along it for a 100m, continuing along on to the B4590 for about 300m before turning left into to the substation entrance.

If people have questions about the delivery, they can ring the Faye Scullion, National Grid's Regional External Affairs Manager on 07773 1881190 between 7.00am -5.00pm or email

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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
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