

National Grid seeks views on new overhead line route options in North Wales

Opportunity for people to influence route to connect new power station

21 Oct 2015

- Options kept close to the existing line, away from the coast and largest towns and villages
- Underground cables at the Menai Strait and Anglesey AONB
- 16 events across Anglesey and Gwynedd in November
- People invited to give feedback for eight weeks until 16 December

National Grid is inviting people to have their say on its latest proposals to connect Horizon's Wylfa Newydd nuclear power station to the existing electricity network.

The route for a new overhead line between Wylfa on Anglesey and Pentir in Gwynedd has been developed after taking into account a wide range of factors, including local communities, the landscape and views, tourism and wildlife. It is also in response to feedback from local people and from organisations with specialist knowledge such as Natural Resources Wales, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust and Cadw.

National Grid has worked to keep the proposed route away from the largest towns and villages, and within the shortest and least populated of all the route corridor options identified in 2012. The route is also away from the coastline, which was highlighted in feedback as important for tourism. National Grid has already said it will use underground cables at the Menai Strait and in the Anglesey Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

National Grid is seeking people's views on the different options the route could take near the existing line from Wylfa to Pentir. People can also have their say on where equipment needed to change the line to an underground cable could be located on either side of the Menai Strait.

People have until 16 December to send in their comments by printed or online feedback form, and by letter and email. Those living near the proposed route will receive a newsletter containing more information together with a map. Details are also available on the project's website.

There will also be 16 events in Anglesey and Gwynedd, where National Grid's team will be on hand to explain the proposals in more detail and answer questions.

Matt Durham, senior project manager for National Grid's North Wales project, said: "People's feedback is really important to us, and we'd like as many as possible to get involved and help shape our proposals. We will then take everyone's views and local knowledge into account before we look at exactly where the new connection could go.

"We've come up with a route that we feel best balances a whole range of important considerations. We've worked hard to keep any impacts on people and the environment as low as possible. At the same time, we also had to be sure the connection will work and is safe, and we have a duty to keep the cost for energy users as low as possible.

"We understand that most people would have preferred us to use subsea cables, and we looked at this really carefully. A nuclear power station has never been directly connected by a subsea link before, making it an unprecedented technical challenge. It risks the power station becoming disconnected from the electricity network if there's a fault. In addition, it would cost energy users £600 million more than our proposal. For these reasons we don't feel a subsea link is the right option.

"Horizon Nuclear Power and independent technical experts for Isle of Anglesey Council have also expressed the same concerns about the potential delays and technical risks a subsea link would present for the viability of the Wylfa Newydd project."

After further detailed work, National Grid will provide more details in mid 2016 about how it could make the connection underground at the Menai Strait, together with another opportunity for people to comment on the proposals.

Anyone who is unable to attend an exhibition can pick up more details at information points that have been located across the area. Reference materials are also available to view at most local libraries. Full details of all locations can be found on the project website or by calling Freephone 0800 990 3567.

People can now also register for a text message alert service on their mobile phones to stay up-to-date on the project, by texting NGCYM to 80800.

Ends

More information about the project is available on the project website at www.nationalgrid.com/cysylliaogogleddcymru and www.nationalgrid.com/northwalesconnection, or on Freephone 0800 990 3567.

The full programme of public exhibitions is:

Tuesday 3 November, 1.30pm–7.30pm
Canolfan Ebeneser, Bridge Street, Llangefnï, LL77 7PN

Wednesday 4 November, 1.30pm–7.30pm
Tre-Ysgawen Hall, Capel Coch, LL77 7UR

Friday 6 November, 1.30pm–7.30pm
Cemaes Village Hall, High Street, Cemaes, LL67 0HL

Saturday 7 November, 10am–4pm
Rhosybol School Community Hall, LL68 9PP

Tuesday 10 November, 1.30pm–7.30pm
Celtic Royal Hotel, Caernarfon, LL55 1AY

Wednesday 11 November, 1.30pm–7.30pm
Rhwias Village Hall, LL57 4GA

Friday 13 November, 1.30pm–7.30pm
Talwm Village Hall, LL77 7ST

Saturday 14 November, 10am–4pm
Llanfairpwll Primary School, Holyhead Road, LL61 5TX

Tuesday 17 November, 1.30pm–7.30pm
Holyhead Town Hall, LL65 1HN

Wednesday 18 November, 1.30pm–7.30pm
Menai Bridge War Memorial Institute Community Centre, Water Street, LL59 5DD

Friday 20 November, 1.30pm–7.30pm
Amlwch War Memorial Hall, LL68 9ET

Saturday 21 November, 10am–4pm
Y Felinell Memorial Hall, LL59 4XD

Monday 23 November, 1.30pm–7.30pm
Escelflog Community Centre, Gaerwen, LL60 6DD

Tuesday 24 November, 1.30pm–7.30pm
Capel Berea Newydd, Bangor LL57 2AJ

Wednesday 25 November, 2.30pm–7.30pm
Llanfechell Community School, Llanfechell, LL68 0SA

Saturday 28 November, 10am–4pm
Community School, Llannerch-y-medd, LL71 8DP

All events take place 1.30pm–7.30pm on weekdays (except in Llanfechell which starts at 2.30pm), and 10am–4pm on Saturdays.

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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