

National Grid consultation on new connections closes – work underway to consider all feedback received

News Release

01 December 2014

- **12 week consultation comes to a close**
- **33 public events and over 20 briefings and meetings**
- **More than a 2,500 people come along to have their say**

After 33 exhibitions, extensive briefings and hundreds of one-to-one conversations, the public consultation for National Grid's North West Coast Connections project closed on 28 November 2014.

National Grid has been asked to provide a connection into the electricity transmission network for the proposed new nuclear power station, Moorside, near Sellafield in West Cumbria. The consultation is a crucial part of working out the best way to make that connection.

Robert Powell, Project Manager said. "This has been a fantastic opportunity to meet the people of Cumbria and Lancashire and to discuss our project in depth. We have been incredibly impressed by just how constructive the discussions have been. We would like to thank everyone for their time and insight. We welcome all the comments and are committed to considering them in identifying the best way to take the project forward to the next stage. At the next stage there will be a further consultation where people will be able to carefully study our detailed proposals."

At the outset of this consultation National Grid presented an emerging preference for:

- a route going onshore north from Moorside to a point on the existing network at Harker, near Carlisle and;
- an onshore south route from Moorside across the Furness peninsula and through a tunnel under Morecambe Bay, which would come up near Heysham in Lancashire to connect into the existing network.

National Grid has also been seeking views on alternative routes coming south from Moorside that go offshore through the Irish Sea to the south or overland around the South Lakes and into North Lancashire.

Robert Powell continued: "We received comments on a huge range of issues all of which we will need to consider. We will carefully look at everything and will know more once we have completed our review of all the feedback and published our Consultation Feedback Report. "

“We will continue to work closely with local communities to develop our plans and we also have further environmental studies to complete. We will not make any decisions until we have carefully reviewed all the responses to our consultation.”

The project expects to announce its decision on the route corridor or corridors to take forward for further study in 2015. A further round of consultation will take place to look at the technologies National Grid will use to build the connection and more detail about where equipment will be located.

Although the consultation has closed, people are still encouraged to register their details on the North West Coast Connections project website to ensure they get regular updates on the project and are informed of the next decision: www.northwestcoastconnections.com

For more 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

ENDS

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Photos:

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NOTES TO EDITORS

North West Coast Connections project

All the responses National Grid receives to this public consultation will be used to help decide whether it progresses with its ‘emerging preference’. This is to build a complete connection with routes going both:

- onshore north from Moorside to a point on the existing network at Harker, near Carlisle
- and:**
- onshore south from Moorside across the Barrow Peninsula and through a tunnel under Morecambe Bay which would come up near Heysham in Lancashire to connect into the existing network.

This will effectively create a ‘power ring’ around the NW coast which would give Moorside a secure connection into the grid and also allow other new generators to link into the electricity network in the future.

There is potential for the onshore parts of the routes to follow the path of existing lower voltage power lines operated by Electricity North West. Where this happens, it is possible that some of these lines could be removed and replaced with higher voltage lines that follow the same path.

National Grid is seeking views on alternative routes coming south from Moorside that go offshore through the Irish Sea to the south or overland around the South Lakes and into North Lancashire. However the company has not prioritised these options for consultation as it believes that specific environmental and technical challenges associated with both of them make it less likely that they would be taken forward.

National Grid

National Grid is one of the largest investor-owned energy companies in the world. We own and manage the grids that connect people to the energy they need, from whatever the source. In Britain and the north-eastern states of the US we run systems that deliver gas and electricity to millions of people, businesses and communities.

In Britain, we run the gas and electricity systems that our society is built on, delivering gas and electricity across the country. In the North Eastern US, we connect more than seven million gas and electric customers to vital energy sources, essential for our modern lifestyles.

National Grid in the UK:

- We own the high-voltage electricity transmission network in England and Wales, operating it across Great Britain.
- We own and operate the high pressure gas transmission system in Britain.
- Our gas distribution business delivers gas to 11 million homes and businesses.
- We also own a number of related businesses including LNG importation, land remediation and metering.
- National Grid manages the National Gas Emergency Service free phone line on behalf of the industry - 0800 111 999 (all calls are recorded and may be monitored).
- Our portfolio of other businesses is mainly concerned with infrastructure provision and related services where we can exploit our core skills and assets to create value. These businesses operate in areas such as Metering, Grain LNG Import, Interconnectors and Property. National Grid Carbon Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of National Grid and it undertakes Carbon Capture Storage related activities on behalf of National Grid.

National Grid in the US:

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