

National Grid to hold community events and share information about evolving plans for new connection

18 August 2015

- **Company finalising plans to hold 27 community information events from September**
- **Events will provide information about ongoing development of the North West Coast Connections project**
- **Over 105,000 newsletters to be mailed out early next month to confirm event programme and project update**
- **Formal consultation expected to take place spring/summer 2016**

National Grid is planning to hold a series of community information events starting this September. People will be invited to come along to find out more about ongoing work to design the new connection that will link Moorside, the new nuclear power station proposed as being built in West Cumbria, into the grid.

In June National Grid reached a milestone in its development process for the North West Coast Connections project when it confirmed which corridor it had chosen to take forward for its proposals. Work is now underway to determine the exact line the connection will take within this corridor, how it will be built and where equipment will go. The company is also considering the different methods that can be used to reduce its impact on the landscape.

The outcome of this work will be the subject of a public consultation planned as taking place in 2016. Ahead of this National Grid is holding a series of community information events and inviting people to come along and talk to the project team about ongoing work.

Robert Powell, Project Manager, said: "Discussion with a range of key national and regional bodies, as well as the thousands of conversations we had with people during our consultation last autumn, has so far played a vital role in the development of our proposals.

“It’s really important we continue to engage with people in the coming months ahead of the consultation planned for 2016. We’re holding these information events to give local communities and individuals the chance to talk to us about the corridor we’ve chosen, and our continuing work to determine the line a new connection could take within it.”

National Grid has already started discussions with landowners, councils and specialist groups to identify environmental and technical land use issues that will influence where a new connection can be built. The project team anticipates being able to share details of the evolving design with people at the events being held this autumn at venues along the chosen corridor.

Details of the community events will be confirmed shortly. If people would like to be notified directly they are invited to register their details on the North West Coast Connections project website: www.northwestcoastconnections.com

In addition to these information events, National Grid is keen to involve community groups in the development of its plans for the new connection. Organisations interested in arranging a briefing on the NWCC project are asked to get in touch with the community relations team by calling FREEPHONE 0800 876 6990.

The company aims to submit an application for consent to build the new connection 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 is expected to start in 2019. National Grid is required to provide NuGen with the first phase of the connection into its transmission network by 2024.

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

ENDS

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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.

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- We also own a number of related businesses including LNG importation, land remediation and metering
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