

National Grid reveals extensive measures to reduce impact of Cumbrian connection

- **New connection needed to link the planned Moorside nuclear power station in Cumbria into electricity network**
- **Extensive measures proposed to reduce the impact of what will be the biggest new power line project since electricity network was built**
- **Company proposing to put lines underground and under Morecambe Bay to protect the Lake District National Park**
- **Over a quarter of the connection could be underground**
- **Ten weeks of consultation from 28 October 2016 until 6 January 2017**

National Grid has unveiled its detailed proposals for the project to connect the proposed new nuclear power station at Moorside in Cumbria into the electricity network, ahead of starting consultation on Friday 28 October 2016. .

The company is proposing extensive measures to reduce the impact of the project on the landscape of Cumbria while balancing this with the need to keep energy bills affordable.

It has today announced plans to look at putting 23.4km (14.5 miles) of new line underground through the entire western section of the Lake District National Park. This could see the existing lines there being removed completely, leaving this part of the park free of pylons for the first time in 50 years.

This is in addition to:

- putting cables through a tunnel measuring approx. 22km (13 miles) long that would be built under Morecambe Bay, to avoid the south part of the national park
- removing many of the existing pylons owned by Electricity North West (ENW) and replacing them with fewer, taller pylons of its own operating at a greater voltage
- replacing the low voltage line in the area around the Hadrian's Wall UNESCO World Heritage Site with underground cables

Consultation on the proposals starts on Friday 28 October and nearly 90,000 newsletters have been mailed to homes and businesses along the route to explain how people can take part.

Robert Powell, Project Manager said: “We’ve undertaken significant engagement during the six years we have spent developing our plans. We’ve listened very carefully to groups like the Lake District National Park Authority, The National Trust and members of the public on the importance of the national park and other treasured landscapes in Cumbria and Lancashire.

“Balancing the impact of the project on the landscape against its cost has involved making some difficult choices, as the cost of building a connection is ultimately passed through to energy bill payers. We believe the proposal we are going to consult on over the coming months strikes the best balance. Our consultation will now give people a chance to have their say on the fine detail of the project.”

National Grid is confident that along the approximately 164km (102 mile) route of its proposed new connection it can remove many of the existing lower voltage pylon lines owned by ENW which go around the west coast of Cumbria, replace them with fewer, taller pylons carrying the new higher voltage lines of its own.

Engineers are already developing proposals for a tunnel under Morecambe Bay which would avoid putting new lines through the southern part of the Lake District.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Since publishing details of the route the new connection could take in June last year, National Grid has been talking to local authorities and key bodies about the technology which could be used to make the connection and to map out in detail exactly where in the landscape it could sit. The company has also made contact with landowners and land occupiers along the route and is currently carrying out surveys in some locations to gather vital information.

The company is proposing to build a complete connection to link the proposed new power station into the electricity transmission network. This will see the connection built along a route going onshore north from Moorside to an existing substation at Harker near Carlisle in addition to a route going onshore south from Moorside across the Furness peninsula and through a tunnel under Morecambe Bay which would come up at an existing substation near Heysham in Lancashire.

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

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 Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. If consent is granted, construction work is expected to start in 2019. National Grid is currently contracted to provide NuGen with the first phase of the connection into its transmission network by 2024.

CONSULTATION

Consultation starts on 28 October 2016 and runs until 6 January 2017. People can take part online on the project website and can register there for updates as the project progresses.

The project website can be found at: www.northwestcoastconnections.com

For further information about the project, please contact the project team direct using any of the following methods:

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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
- 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).
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National Grid in the US:

- National Grid delivers electricity to approximately 3.5 million customers in New England and upstate New York

- We own 3.8 gigawatts of contracted electricity generation, providing power to over one million LIPA customers
- We are the largest distributor of natural gas in northeastern U.S., serving approximately 3.6 million customers in New York, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Find out more about the energy challenge and how National Grid is helping find solutions to some of the challenges we face at www.nationalgridconnecting.com

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