

News Release

National Grid starts consultation on the North West Coast Connections Project

3 September 2014

- **People across Cumbria and Lancashire invited to give feedback on plans to connect new sources of electricity into ‘the grid’**
- **12 week period of consultation launches with newsletters sent to thousands of homes and project website goes live on Thursday 4th September**
- **The company wants views on the ‘emerging preference’ it has identified after five years of discussions with key bodies**

National Grid has started a 12 week consultation exercise on plans to connect new sources of electricity generation into ‘the grid’ in Cumbria and Lancashire.

The company wants to hear the views of people from the two counties on its plans to provide a connection for the proposed new nuclear power station, Moorside, near Sellafield in West Cumbria into the existing electricity transmission system and to export power generated by other new energy projects in the North West.

Robert Powell, Project Manager said: “This is a major milestone for National Grid. We have spent five years working on this project and from today, we start to share the detail of our proposals more widely.

“We’ve had discussions with local authorities from across the region as well as key organisations including the Lake District National Park Authority, English Nature and English Heritage. These have helped us identify an ‘emerging preference’ for a way of making these vital new connections.

“NuGen tells us that its proposed Moorside plant will generate enough electricity to supply around six million homes and we must find a way to securely connect their plant into our network while, at the same time, treading as lightly as possible on the treasured landscape and environment of Cumbria and north Lancashire.

“We’re now at the most crucial stage of our project. We’re looking forward to going into local communities to start the dialogue about our project. We’re encouraging people to share their views on the work we’ve done to date in order to help us refine the project we take forward.”

Kate Wilshaw, Planning Officer for Friends of the Lake District said: “We have worked with National Grid over the past five years to raise awareness of the sensitivity of the landscape and natural environment through which the electricity infrastructure will need to travel.

“Cumbria and the Lake District contain some of the most precious landscapes in England and we hope that a solution can be found to make sure these landscapes are kept safe.

“We would urge local people to read the information provided and attend the consultation events and to share their views on local landscape impacts with National Grid as experience over the last five years has shown that National Grid does listen to people’s concerns.”

National Grid is updating the project website to include detailed maps and information about the connection options being considered. This will go live on **Thursday 4th September 2014**. People can register on it now to take part in consultation online and also receive updates and news about the project. The website can be found at www.northwestcoastconnections.com

In addition, the company has sent out around 135,000 newsletters to homes within 1km of the routes being consulted on, ahead of 33 consultation events. More detailed information about the project will also be available at libraries and council information points.

National Grid’s emerging preference

National Grid’s ‘emerging preference’ at this point is to build a complete connection with routes going:

- onshore north from Moorside to a point on the existing network at Harker, near Carlisle
in addition to routes going:
- onshore south 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.

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 will also be 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 and it believes that specific environmental and technical challenges associated with both of them make it less likely that they would be taken forward.

People can register for text alerts by texting ‘**NWCC**’ to **80800** to receive notification when information about the project becomes available.

For any other enquiries, 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:

For photos relating to this news release please visit the National Grid photo stream

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Notes to Editors:

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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.

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:

- In the northeast US, we connect more than seven million gas and electric customers to vital energy sources, essential for our modern lifestyles.
- National Grid delivers electricity to approximately 3.3 million customers in Massachusetts, New York and Rhode Island. It is the largest distributor of natural gas in northeastern U.S., serving approximately 3.4 million customers in New York, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.



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