

News Release

Communities invited to share views on National Grid plans for new connections in Cumbria and Lancashire

7 August 2014

- **National Grid to hold 33 consultation events on plans to connect new sources of electricity generation into ‘the grid’ in Cumbria and Lancashire**
- **Newsletter to be mailed to homes with information on how people can have their say**
- **People encouraged to register online to receive updates and details of consultation on the North West Coast Connections Project**

National Grid has unveiled plans to hold a series of consultation events during the autumn to seek the views of people in Cumbria and Lancashire on plans to connect new sources of electricity generation into the national electricity network.

The consultation will open on 04 September 2014 and run for 12 weeks. During this time 33 events will take place at venues across Cumbria and Lancashire, with the first event taking place on Thursday 18 September and the final event taking place on Saturday 08 November. (See Notes to Editor for a full list of event times, dates and venues). The consultation will close on Thursday 28 November 2014.

A newsletter providing information about the consultation and details of the routes being consulted on will be mailed to those homes and businesses lying within one kilometre of those routes we are consulting on before the events start. Copies will also be distributed to local libraries. People can register to receive the newsletter, get more information about the Project and take part in the consultation online on the Project website at: www.northwestcoastconnections.com

National Grid is consulting with local communities because it has been asked to provide a connection into the electricity transmission system for the proposed new 3.4 GW nuclear power station, Moorside, near Sellafield in West Cumbria and to export the energy produced by an offshore wind farm in the Irish Sea.

Robert Powell, Project Manager said: “We are now at the most important point in our Project so far – sharing the results of the work we’ve done to date and seeking the views of communities on our findings. It is really important to National Grid that as many people as possible take part in the consultation process. We want to understand people’s views so we can learn from what they’re telling us to help us refine our proposals further and choose which routes to take forward to the more detailed design phase.”

“We’ve been working with local authorities and other key organisations such as Natural England and English Heritage and the information they have given us has been invaluable in helping us develop our plans. We now need to hear what individuals, local businesses and community groups have to say about our proposals.”

NuGen, the company developing the Moorside new nuclear project in West Cumbria, is working closely with National Grid. Welcoming news of the consultation, a spokesman said: "National Grid's NWCC Project is of national significance, and supports the Government's aims of ensuring security of energy supply and meeting climate change ambitions. We support National Grid's approach and look forward to playing a part in the consultation."

People are encouraged to register their details on the North West Coast Connections Project website now to ensure they get regular updates on the Project: www.northwestcoastconnections.com

People can also 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

Contact for media information only:

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Photos:

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

For more information, please visit our website:

www.nationalgridmedia.com

Notes to Editors

Consultation Event Programme

A full schedule of all the information events taking place, including details of the dates and venues, is listed below.

SEPTEMBER 2014

1. **Thursday 18 September – 1pm-8pm – Dalton-in-Furness**
Dalton Drill Hall, Nelson Street, Dalton in Furness, Cumbria, LA15 8AF
2. **Friday 19 September – 1pm-8pm – Rampside**
Rampside Hall, Rampside, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, LA13 0PX
3. **Sat 20 September – 10am-3:30pm – Cartmel**
Cartmel Village Hall, Cartmel, Cumbria, LA11 6QB
4. **Wednesday 24 September – 2:30pm-8pm – Lindal-in-Furness**
Buccleuch Hall, The Green, Lindal-in-Furness, Cumbria, LA12 0LX

5. **Thursday 25 September – 1:30pm-8pm – Seascale**
Seascale Methodist Church Hall, Gosforth Road, Seascale, Cumbria, CA20 1PU
6. **Friday 26 September – 1pm-8pm – Beckermest**
Beckermest Reading Room, Sellafield Road, Beckermest, Cumbria, CA21 2XN
7. **Saturday 27 September – 10am-3:30pm – Workington**
Workington Bridge Church, Central Square, Workington, Cumbria, CA14 3BG
8. **Tuesday 30 September – 1pm-8pm – Kendal**
Friends Meeting House, Stramongate, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 4BH

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9. **Wednesday 01 October – 1pm-8pm – Fletchertown**
Allhallows Community Centre, Fletchertown, Wigton, Cumbria, CA7 1BS
10. **Thursday 02 October – 1pm-8pm – Egremont**
Egremont Market Hall, Market Street, Egremont, Whitehaven, Cumbria, CA22 2DF
11. **Friday 03 October – 1pm-8pm – Maryport**
The Wave Centre, Irish Street, Maryport, Cumbria, CA15 8AD
12. **Saturday 04 October – 10am-3:30pm – Whitehaven**
St James' Community Centre, High Street, Whitehaven, Cumbria, CA28 7PY
13. **Wednesday 08 October – 1pm-8pm – Rockcliffe**
Rockcliffe Community Centre, Rockcliffe, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA6 4AA
14. **Thursday 09 October – 1pm-8pm – Ravenglass**
Muncaster Parish Hall, Main Street, Ravenglass, Cumbria, CA18 1SQ
15. **Friday 10 October – 1pm-8pm – Morecambe**
The Platform, Station Buildings, Marine Road West, Morecambe, Lancashire, LA4 4DB
16. **Saturday 11 October – 10am-3:30pm – Millom**
Millom Network Centre, Salthouse Road, Millom, Cumbria, LA18 5AB
17. **Wednesday 15 October – 1pm-8pm – Grizebeck**
The Community Hall at Grizebeck, Grizebeck, Kirkby-in-Furness, Cumbria, LA17 7XH
18. **Thursday 16 October – 1pm-8pm – Gleaston**
Gleaston Village Hall, Main Street, Gleaston, Ulverston, Cumbria, LA12 0QA
19. **Friday 17 October – 1pm-8pm – Barrow-in-Furness**
The Forum, Duke Street, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, LA14 1HH
20. **Saturday 18 October – 10am-3:30pm – Roosecote**
Roose Community School, North Row, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, LA13 0HF
21. **Wednesday 22 October – 1pm-8pm – Cleator Moor**
Cleator Moor Civic Hall, Market Square, Cleator Moor, Cumbria, CA25 5AR

- 22. Thursday 23 October – 1pm-8pm – Carlisle West**
Morton Community Centre, Wigton Road, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA2 6JP
- 23. Friday 24 October – 1pm-8pm – Distington**
Distington Community Centre, Church Road, Distington, Workington, Cumbria, CA14 5TE
- 24. Saturday 25 October – 10am-3:30pm – Cockermouth**
Cockermouth Town Hall, Market Street, Cockermouth, Cumbria, CA13 9NP
- 25. Tuesday 28 October – 1pm-8pm – Ulverston**
Ulverston Victoria High School, Springfield Road, Ulverston, Cumbria, LA12 0EB
- 26. Wednesday 29 October – 1:30pm-8pm – Wigton**
Wigton Market Hall, Church Street, Wigton, Cumbria, CA7 9AA
- 27. Thursday 30 October – 1pm-8pm – Aspatria**
Aspatria Rugby Club, Bower Park, Station Road, Aspatria, Cumbria, CA7 2AJ
- 28. Friday 31 October – 1pm-8pm – Heysham**
Heysham & Mossgate Community Centre, Townson Way, Heysham, Lancashire, LA3 2AW

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- 29. Saturday 01 November – 10am-3:30pm – Askam-in-Furness**
Askam Community Centre, Duke Street, Askam-in-Furness, Cumbria, LA16 7AD
- 30. Wednesday 05 November – 1:30pm-8pm – Drigg**
Drigg & Carleton Parish Hall, Drigg, Holmrook, Cumbria, CA19 1XF
- 31. Thursday 06 November – 1pm-8pm – Bootle**
Bootle Village Hall, Bootle Station, Cumbria, LA19 5UY
- 32. Friday 07 November – 1pm-8pm – Broughton-in-Furness**
Broughton Victory Hall, Station Road, Broughton-in-Furness, Cumbria, LA20 6HN
- 33. Saturday 08 November – 10am-3:30pm – Dalston**
Victory Hall, The Green, Dalston, Cumbria, CA5 7QB

The North West Coast Connections Project – Summary

National Grid has been asked to provide a connection into the electricity transmission network for the proposed new 3.4 GW nuclear power station, Moorside, near Sellafield in West Cumbria and to export energy produced by an offshore wind farm in the Irish Sea.

Over a five year period, it has been working with local authorities in Lancashire and Cumbria, key groups and individuals on the options available for connecting the proposed new power generation. Based on feedback and an initial consultation exercise in 2012, National Grid took two connection options forward for further development.

Work since then has focused on looking at onshore routes to the north of Moorside where the potential exists to follow the path of existing power lines operated by Electricity North West. To the south of Moorside, National Grid considered routes following the path of existing lines as well as routes across Morecambe Bay and through the Irish Sea. Where routes follow Electricity North West lines, there could be scope to remove some existing pylons.

Following these studies, the company has identified an 'emerging preference' to build a complete connection comprising two parts:

- a connection that goes onshore north from Moorside to a point on the existing network at Harker, near Carlisle; and

- a connection that goes 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.

There is potential for the onshore parts of the routes to follow the path of existing lower voltage pylon lines operated by Electricity North West. Where this is possible the existing lower voltage pylons would be replaced with National Grid's higher voltage equipment.

The detail of these routes will be shared during consultation which launches in September 2014. National Grid will also be seeking views on routes going offshore through the Irish Sea to the south of Moorside and also overland around the South Lakes into Lancashire, however there are specific practical, environmental and technical challenges associated with the delivery of both of these.

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:

- 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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