

## News Release

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# Homes across Cumbria and Lancashire to get news of North West Coast Connections Project

14 August 2014

- **Around 135,000 newsletters to be mailed out in September with detailed maps and information on National Grid's North West Coast Connections project**
- **Project manager urges people to have their say during 12 week consultation exercise running from 4<sup>th</sup> September until 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014**
- **National Grid promises to listen and act on views given to help shape the North West Coast Connections project**

The manager of National Grid's North West Coast Connections project is urging people to make sure they have their say during the consultation exercise which starts on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September and runs until Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

Around 135,000 newsletters will be mailed out in the run-up to a series of 33 consultation events being held in September. These will go to homes within one kilometre of the routes National Grid is consulting on. The newsletters will contain information about the project and a map detailing the different routes being considered for the new connection. Copies will also be available from local libraries.

The company has been asked to provide a new connection into the electricity transmission network for the proposed new 3.4GW nuclear power station, Moorside, near Sellafield in West Cumbria and to export energy produced by a number of wind farms in the Irish Sea.

**Robert Powell, Project Manager** said: "We've got a tough task ahead of us. We have to protect the fantastic landscapes and environments of Cumbria and Lancashire while making sure our country has the energy it needs for the future.

"We'll soon be sending people information about our project and the important role they can play in it. For the past five years, we've been talking to lots of key groups across the region, but now we want to hear what the people of the two counties have to say about the routes we are considering for these new connections.

"It is vital that they have their say, as what they tell us will be used to help us shape the project as we move it forward. The work we are doing to connect new generators will bring major benefits for the economy of the region and will also provide electricity to power up to six million homes."

Over a five year period, National Grid has been working with local authorities in Lancashire and Cumbria, key groups and individuals on the possible routes for connecting the proposed new power generation.

National Grid's 'emerging preference' at the current point in the project is for 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 Barrow Peninsula and through a tunnel under Morecambe Bay which would come up near Heysham in Lancashire to connect into the existing network.

National Grid needs to link into its existing network to both the north and south of Moorside to provide a secure connection for the new power station and also give other generators the opportunity to connect into the electricity transmission system.

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. It is also possible that some of these lines could be removed if the new high voltage lines follow the same path.

National Grid will also be seeking views on routes offshore through the Irish Sea to the south of Moorside and also overland around the South Lakes.

The consultation is open to all and further information can be found at:

[www.northwestcoastconnections.com](http://www.northwestcoastconnections.com)

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 and details of the consultation:

[www.northwestcoastconnections.com](http://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](mailto:nationalgrid@northwestcoastconnections.com)
- Freepost: Freepost NG NWCC

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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](http://www.nationalgridmedia.com)

## Notes to Editors

### 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.

**Details of the public information events taking place during the 12 week consultation are available on the Project website: [www.northwestcoastconnections.com/bqo/homewhathappensnext.asp](http://www.northwestcoastconnections.com/bqo/homewhathappensnext.asp)**

## 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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