

People urged to comment on new National Grid connection before consultation closes

News Release

20 November 2014

- **Consultation on National Grid's North West Coast Connections project closes Friday 28 November 2014**
- **Members of the public have just over a week to submit their feedback online, in writing or by email**
- **Comments will be used to inform the decision on which northern and southern routes a new connection for Moorside will follow**

National Grid is urging members of the public who have yet to provide feedback to its consultation on the North West Coast Connections project to make sure their comments are submitted by Friday 28 November if they would like their views to be considered.

For 12 weeks National Grid has been running a public consultation and asking people for their thoughts on its plans to connect new sources of electricity generation including Moorside, the proposed new nuclear power station, into 'the grid' in Cumbria and Lancashire.

It is proposing to build a new connection going north from Moorside to Carlisle and south from Moorside to Heysham, and has identified an 'emerging preference' for the paths that the connection could take. It is asking the public for their views on this 'emerging preference', as well as alternative options.

Robert Powell, Project Manager, North West Coast Connections project said: "It's really important to National Grid that as many people as possible share their thoughts with us through the consultation process. We've already received a large number of responses, but we're keen to hear from anyone who hasn't yet sent us their comments.

"If you haven't provided us with any feedback there is still time – the deadline for getting your comments to us is 28 November. All the comments we receive will play a vital role in helping us to make important decisions on the project moving forward as we've got a difficult balance to strike.

"We need to keep the lights on and bills low while, at the same time, treading as lightly as possible on the unique landscape and environment of Cumbria and Lancashire. We want people to help us decide how to manage these competing demands. We promise to listen and to learn from what people tell us so we can then develop the project in a way which achieves the best possible balance."

People can register on the project website – www.northwestcoastconnections.com – to submit their comments online, write an email or a letter to the project team (see contact details below), or contact the

project team directly to request a hard copy of the feedback form. Once completed, these forms can be returned to the project team by Freepost.

National Grid will analyse all of the comments received during the consultation, and anticipates making an announcement in 2015 on which route corridors it plans to take forward. People are encouraged to register their details on the website to ensure they receive regular updates on the project, including news on the outcome of the consultation.

For any enquiries, the project team can be contacted 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:

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NOTES TO EDITORS

North West Coast Connections project

All the responses National Grid receives to this public consultation will be used to help decide whether it progresses with its 'emerging preference'. This is to build a complete connection with routes going both:

- onshore north from Moorside to a point on the existing network at Harker, near Carlisle

and:

- 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.

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

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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