

News Release

National Grid starts countdown to consultation on new connections in Cumbria and Lancashire

28 August 2014

- **National Grid starts 12 weeks of consultation on Thursday 4 September on plans to connect new sources of generation into ‘the grid’ in Cumbria and Lancashire**
- **People can register now to get more information or to take part online**
- **33 public information events will be held with the first one taking place on Thursday 18 September and the final one on Saturday 8 November**

National Grid is starting the countdown to consultation on plans to connect new sources of electricity generation into the national electricity network in Cumbria and Lancashire.

The 12 week exercise starts on Thursday 4 September as the company starts to send out thousands of newsletters to homes across the two counties. The consultation will run until Thursday 28 November. People will be able to see more information about the North West Coast Connections Project online from that date and can take part in consultation through the website: www.northwestcoastconnections.com

They will also be able to talk to members of the Project team in person at a series of 33 public information events which will be held between Thursday 18 September and Saturday 8 November.

Robert Powell, Project Manager said: “We want to hear what people have to say about the challenges we face with this project. We need to build connections to make sure the country has the energy it needs for the future, we have to consider the impact on customers’ bills and we also have to think about protecting the special landscapes and environments of Cumbria and Lancashire.

“We’ve got to find the right balance between these things and we want people to tell us what they think of the work we’ve done so far and the options we’ve focused on, including our own emerging preference.”

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 the power generated by other new energy projects in the North West.

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.

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; **in addition to**
- a connection that goes 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 North West coast which will allow other new generators to connect into the electricity network.

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 and replaced with National Grid's higher voltage lines which follow the same path.

The detail of these routes will be shared during consultation which launches on 4 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.

People are invited to register their details on the North West Coast Connections Project website now to ensure they get regular updates about 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

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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:

National Grid is one of the largest investor-owned energy companies in the world. We own and manage the grids that