

## News Release

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# National Grid aims to ‘strike a balance’ with new connections in Cumbria and Lancashire

- **National Grid aiming to strike a balance between protecting much-loved landscapes, keeping the lights on and bills low**
- **Company now finalising plans for 12 weeks of consultation in the autumn**
- **People’s views will help further shape the North West Coast Connections project**

31.07.2014: National Grid is seeking to work with communities across Cumbria and Lancashire to strike a balance between competing demands as it develops plans to connect new sources of electricity generation into the national electricity network.

The company has been asked to provide a connection into the electricity transmission system 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: “This is a very challenging project. We have to find a way of making these vital new connections in a way which treads as lightly as possible on the treasured landscapes of Cumbria and Lancashire.

“At the same time, we must be conscious of the impact of our work on people’s bills and the need to make sure that everyone in the UK has the electricity they need now, and for generations to come.”

The company is now finalising plans to start a 12 week consultation exercise in September and will shortly announce the dates of a series of public information events.

Robert added: “We’re calling on the people of Cumbria and Lancashire to help us decide how to manage these competing demands. We promise to listen and to learn from what people say to us and then to seek to develop the project in a way which strikes the best possible balance.”

Over a five year period, National Grid has been working with local authorities in Lancashire and Cumbria, key groups and individuals, including the Lake District National Park and Natural England 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.

This will effectively create a 'power ring' around the North West coast which would 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 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. However, there are specific environmental and technical challenges associated with both of these routes.

All routes have been studied in detail and the results of National Grid's work will be available during the consultation.

The key challenges for offshore routes include the presence of the Eskmeals Ministry of Defence live firing range; the limited availability of land for cables to come ashore and connect with the existing network; the limited availability of routes due to existing wind farms, oil and gas pipelines and cables and shifting sands at sea which may expose high voltage cables. Future new generation could not be connected into offshore cables.

Going overland through the South Lakes would be the most straightforward and economic option but there are specific environmental challenges given the fact that many areas of land fall within the National Park or have other protected status.

Consultation is expected to start in early September. 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](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

## **End**

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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:**

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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