

## National Grid announced plans for information events on route of new connection

National Grid has announced that it is planning to hold a series of information events in communities along the route it has chosen for new connections to link the proposed new nuclear power plant at Moorside in Cumbria into 'the grid'.

18 Aug 2015

- Events will provide information about ongoing development of the North West Coast Connections project
- Over 105,000 newsletters to be mailed out early next month to confirm event programme and project update
- Formal consultation expected to take place spring/summer 2016

**National Grid is planning to hold a series of community information events starting this September. People will be invited to come along to find out more about ongoing work to design the new connection that will link Moorside, the new nuclear power station proposed as being built in West Cumbria, into the grid.**

In June National Grid reached a milestone in its development process for the North West Coast Connections project when it confirmed which corridor it had chosen to take forward for its proposals. Work is now underway to determine the exact line the connection will take within this corridor, how it will be built and where equipment will go. The company is also considering the different methods that can be used to reduce its impact on the landscape.

The outcome of this work will be the subject of a public consultation planned as taking place in 2016. Ahead of this National Grid is holding a series of community information events and inviting people to come along and talk to the project team about ongoing work.

Robert Powell, Project Manager, said: "Discussion with a range of key national and regional bodies, as well as the thousands of conversations we had with people during our consultation last autumn, has so far played a vital role in the development of our proposals.

"It's really important we continue to engage with people in the coming months ahead of the consultation planned for 2016. We're holding these information events to give local communities and individuals the chance to talk to us about the corridor we've chosen, and our continuing work to determine the line a new connection could take within it."

National Grid has already started discussions with landowners, councils and specialist groups to identify environmental and technical land use issues that will influence where a new connection can be built. The project team anticipates being able to share details of the evolving design with people at the events being held this autumn at venues along the chosen corridor.

Details of the community events will be confirmed shortly. If people would like to be notified directly they are invited to register their details on the North West Coast Connections project website: [www.northwestcoastconnections.com](http://www.northwestcoastconnections.com)

In addition to these information events, National Grid is keen to involve community groups in the development of its plans for the new connection. Organisations interested in arranging a briefing on the NWCC project are asked to get in touch with the community relations team by calling FREEPHONE 0800 876 6990.

The company aims to submit an application for consent to build the new connection to the Planning Inspectorate in 2017. A decision will then be made by the Secretary of State for the Department of Energy and Climate Change. If consent is granted, construction work is expected to start in 2019. National Grid is required to provide NuGen with the first phase of the connection into its transmission network by 2024.

For further information about the project, 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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Notes for editors

#### Notes to Editors:

National Grid is pivotal to the energy systems in the UK and the north eastern United States. We aim to serve customers well and efficiently, supporting the communities in which we operate and making possible the energy systems of the future.

#### National Grid in the UK:

- We own and operate the electricity transmission network in England and Wales, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. We also operate, but do not own, the Scottish networks. Our networks comprise approximately 7,200 kilometres (4,474 miles) of overhead line, 1,500 kilometres (932 miles) of underground cable and 342 substations.
- We own and operate the gas National Transmission System in Great Britain, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. Our network comprises approximately 7,660 kilometres (4,760 miles) of high-pressure pipe and 618 above-ground installations.
- As Great Britain's System Operator (SO) we make sure gas and electricity is transported safely and efficiently from where it is produced to where it is consumed. From April 2019, Electricity System Operator (ESO) is a new standalone business within National Grid, legally separate from all other parts of the National Grid Group. This will provide the right environment to deliver a balanced and impartial ESO that can realise real benefits for consumers as we transition to a more decentralised, decarbonised electricity system.
- Other UK activities mainly relate to businesses operating in competitive markets outside of our core regulated businesses; including interconnectors, gas metering activities and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation terminal – all of which are now part of National Grid Ventures. National Grid Property is responsible for the management, clean-up and disposal of surplus sites in the UK. Most of these are former gas works.

Find out more about the energy challenge and how National Grid is helping find solutions to some of the challenges we face at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/news>

National Grid undertakes no obligation to update any of the information contained in this release, which speaks only as at the date of this release, unless required by law or regulation.

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