

River Humber pipeline replacement project granted planning permission

The Secretary of State for Business energy and industrial strategy (DBEIS) has granted planning permission for the replacement of the existing high pressure gas pipeline across the River Humber.

26 Aug 2016

Yesterday (25/08/16) the development consent order (DCO) was granted to National Grid to build a new tunnel under the River Humber and replace the existing high pressure gas pipeline.

Preliminary work has started on site and we will start the tunnelling work in early 2017. The new pipeline will be placed within a tunnel, underneath the River Humber from Goxhill to Paull, replacing the existing pipeline which lies on the riverbed.

Steve Ellison, National Grid's project manager said: "This is great news for the project and is the result of years of consultation with the local community and stakeholders. By replacing the pipeline National Grid will continue to deliver a safe and reliable gas network for the UK.

"We would like to thank everyone who took part in the local consultations about our plans which helped shape the proposal."

Full details of the decision and related documents are available on the Planning Inspectorate website.

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/yorkshire-and-the-humber/river-humber-gas-pipeline-replacement-project/>

The pipeline will be the longest gas pipeline in a tunnel, inserted in a single string in Europe.

The three year project is estimated to cost around £150 million, to replace the existing pipeline on the riverbed with a 5km tunnel underneath the river Humber, inserting a single string of 42" steel pipe and connecting into the above ground installations (AGIs) at Goxhill and Paull.

The River Humber pipeline is part of the national transmission system – connecting the import terminal at Easington, on the East Yorkshire coast, to the wider network and delivering gas to millions of customers throughout the UK.

Over time, the tidal patterns of the River Humber have eroded the river bed covering the existing pipeline, leading to parts of it being at risk of being exposed. An innovative short-term engineering solution to protect the pipeline by covering exposed areas was put in place in 2010. Because of the importance of the pipeline, National Grid is now looking to construct a new pipeline in a tunnel underneath the River Humber from the above ground installations (AGIs) at Goxhill, south of the river and Paull, east of Hull, as a long-term replacement.

The pipeline will connect to the existing National Grid AGI sites at Goxhill and Paull and will be 3.36 miles (5.4km) long, of which 3.11 miles (5km) would be tunnelled.

The pipeline will be 42" (1050mm) in diameter and will transport natural gas at a pressure of 70barg.

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Notes for editors

Key Facts

Length of pipeline	5.4km / 3.3 miles
Diameter of pipeline	42 inches (1050mm)
Length of pipeline tunnelled	5km / 3.11 miles
Depth of tunnel	35 metres
Width of tunnel	3-4 metres
Length of construction	35 months (approx.)
Length of time spent tunnelling	12 months (approx.)
Gas pressure	70 barg
Estimated cost of project	£150 million

Project information is also available on National Grid's project website, <http://riverhumberpipeline.com/>

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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