



Meeting note

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Status	Final	
Author	Steffan Jones	
Date	13 August 2014	
Meeting with	National Grid & SP Manweb	
Venue	Room 3/03, Temple Quay House, Bristol	
Attendees	Kathryn Powell - The Planning Inspectorate	
	Steffan Jones - The Planning Inspectorate	
	Frances Russell - The Planning Inspectorate	
	Jenny Colfer - The Planning Inspectorate	
	Will Spencer - The Planning Inspectorate	
	Linda Rossiter - The Planning Inspectorate	
	Alison Down - The Planning Inspectorate	
	Nicola Mathiason - The Planning Inspectorate	
	Jacqui Fenn - National Grid Mid Wales	
	Martin Kinsey - National Grid Mid Wales	
	Anna Eastgate - National Grid Mid Wales	
	Steven Edwards - SP Manweb Mid Wales	
	Claire Duffy - SP Manweb North Wales	
Meeting objectives	Mid Wales Electricity Connection (National Grid), Mid Wales (Electricity) Connection Project (SP Manweb) & North Wales Wind Farms Connection (SP Manweb)– projects update meeting	
Circulation	All	

National Grid and SP Manweb were made aware of the Planning Inspectorate's openness policy (that any advice given will be recorded and placed on the Planning Inspectorate's website under s51 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008), as amended by the Localism Act 2011. Any advice given does not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) can rely.

National Grid – Mid Wales Electricity Connection

National Grid intends to carry out its statutory consultation and publicity under s42, 47 & 48 of the PA 2008 in Autumn/Winter 2014.

Submission of the application for development consent to the Planning Inspectorate is expected in mid-2015, depending on the feedback received to National Grid's statutory consultation.

Statutory consultation on National Grid's Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) will be taking place with the host Local Authorities (LAs) shortly.

The Planning Inspectorate reminded National Grid that it has the ability to comment on draft documents such as the consultation report, the draft DCO, explanatory memorandum and other documents where relevant. National Grid envisaged that they could provide the Planning Inspectorate with draft documents in Spring 2015; however they will clarify this date.

The Planning Inspectorate was asked by National Grid to contact Shropshire County Council, as a host authority, in order to help inform council staff of the process under the PA 2008. The possibility of the Planning Inspectorate running an outreach event in Powys and/or Shropshire to explain the process to different groups was raised, ideally this would take place prior to National Grid's statutory consultation beginning in autumn/winter 2014. The Planning Inspectorate will confirm whether this is possible.

National Grid is encouraging Powys and Shropshire County Council to sign up to a Planning Performance Agreement (PPA); the councils are still considering their position in relation to joining such an agreement.

The Planning Inspectorate was informed by National Grid that a local MP has raised concerns to the Secretary of State regarding the timeframe for those identified by regulations to respond to the Planning Inspectorate during the period for EIA scoping. The Planning Inspectorate informed National Grid that it does not have the power to amend the statutory timescales provided for responding to scoping.

National Grid provided the Planning Inspectorate with draft documents prior to the meeting. The Planning Inspectorate was provided with a SoCC, a SoCC Consultation Strategy and a draft of the Book of Reference (BoR) for comments.

The Planning Inspectorate requested clarification on National Grid's SoCC Consultation Strategy report and its relationship with the SoCC. The report implied in its title that it complements the production of the SoCC, however on closer inspection the report also covers consultation that is not solely in relation to the SoCC. The Planning Inspectorate advised National Grid to consider renaming the report to reflect this.

National Grid was advised to consider its use of the terms 'formal' and 'informal' when referring to its rounds of consultation. The terms 'statutory' and 'non-statutory' were given as examples by the Planning Inspectorate of possible improved terminology. However National Grid may wish to continue with their terminology if they have already used it extensively in published material.

The Planning Inspectorate advised National Grid to take care when referring to associated development as it has very limited application in Wales under the PA 2008.

National Grid was advised to make reference to the Planning Inspectorate and not to the 'National Infrastructure Directorate' in any published material to avoid confusion.

Discussions were had around the content of National Grid's Environmental Statement (ES). Consideration is being given by National Grid to produce one ES which would support both its application for development consent under the PA 2008 and for its application under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (TCPA 1990). National Grid has yet to decide the finer details of exactly what will be included within each

application, and this will be informed by the outcomes of the statutory consultation; however the application for the construction of a new substation at Cefn Coch would be included within the application under the TCPA 1990. PINS advised that there may be a need to prepare separate Environmental Statements for the relevant elements of the proposed development under the Planning Act 2008(NSIP) and the Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA) regimes, such that the baseline description, assessment of impacts and mitigation measures related to the separate consents sought could be clearly identified by the relevant consenting bodies. There would also need to be consideration of cumulative impacts between the NSIP and TCPA development, as well as cumulative impacts with any other reasonably foreseeable developments, as per the definition in Advice Note 9. If National Grid wished to produce a single ES, then the environmental impact assessments of the NSIP and TCPA elements, and relevant cumulative impacts could be reported in separate sub sections or chapters.

Regarding the draft BoR provided, the Planning Inspectorate reminded National Grid that the names and addresses of people listed in Part 3 should also appear in Parts 1 and 2 of the BoR. National Grid was advised it should not include a list of statutory undertakers at the end of the BoR, where relevant, these organisations should be included within the relevant statutory 'parts' of the BoR.

National Grid has identified some parcels of unregistered land; National Grid informed the Planning Inspectorate it has a clear indication of who the possible owners may be. Applications under s52 of the PA 2008 (application to authorise a developer to serve a written notice which requires the recipient to provide information to the developer about interests in land) are unlikely to be made by National Grid to the Planning Inspectorate at this time.

Post-Meeting Note

National Grid asked the Planning Inspectorate if the information to be published in accordance with s47 (Statement of Community Consultation) and s48 publicity should be translated into Welsh; the Planning Inspectorate stated that although the PA 2008 does not require this of applicants, it is advisable to do so.

SP Manweb – Mid Wales Connection Project

SP Manweb has made its Stage Three Consultation Feedback Report, Preferred Line Route Report, and Scoping Report publicly available.

The Planning Inspectorate informed SP Manweb that the Scoping Opinion issued on behalf of the Secretary of State was produced having regard to the information received at the time.

The Planning Inspectorate explained to SP Manweb that even if a potential effect of the scheme is not raised in the Scoping Opinion, this does not necessarily mean that it could not become an examination issue later on. The Scoping Opinion produced is based on a precautionary approach if insufficient information is provided to justify scoping a topic or issue out of the assessment.

SP Manweb identified some hypothetical approaches in how it intends to assess cumulative impacts. The Planning Inspectorate advised that SP Manweb should provide it with detailed options in order for it to provide comments and also include

any options considered within its application. It was agreed that SP Manweb would provide this to the Planning Inspectorate at a later date.

SP Manweb queried if conjoined examinations or examinations running in parallel between both projects in Mid Wales would be likely. The Planning Inspectorate informed that consideration would need to be given to consultees and interested parties and whether taking forward any of the above options would affect their contribution to any of the potential examinations.

Statutory consultation under s42 of the PA 2008 is scheduled to take place in February 2015 and potentially run until April/May 2015. Statutory consultation on Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) will be taking place with the host Local Authority (LA) shortly.

The Planning Inspectorate advised SP Manweb to contact the affected LAs due to the potential of its consultation overlapping with the elections. Submission of the application for development consent to the Planning Inspectorate is expected in August 2015, depending on the feedback received to SP Manweb's statutory consultation.

National Grid – North Wales Connection

National Grid provided a brief update on the above project. National Grid proposes to construct a 400kv line from the proposed Wylfa Newydd Nuclear Power Station on Anglesey to an existing substation at Pentir, alongside further reinforcement work on the mainland.

The project is at a very early stage; National Grid intends to hold a non-statutory round of consultation next year (2015).

The Planning Inspectorate intends to hold a meeting in the near future with the North Wales project team at National Grid; it was confirmed that Graham Denison-Smith, Senior Consents Manager, is the main contact at National Grid for the project.

SP Manweb – North Wales Wind Farms Connection

The Planning Inspectorate was provided with an update on potential changes to the proposals which has resulted following SP Manweb's previous round of consultation. Following public meetings the consultation period was extended by 6 weeks. SP Manweb are looking at a section of the overhead line skylines and whether the line can be moved to reduce visual impacts for local residents.

An additional targeted consultation will be carried out due to minor alterations to temporary access tracks and the overhead line corridor; the alterations result in a change to the red line boundary which led SP Manweb to carry out additional consultation with landowners.

The Environmental Statement is currently being finalised and will be revised to capture any comments on the Preliminary Environmental Information, but completion is dependent on the red line boundary being finalised. A 100m corridor is proposed to form the basis of the current line design although to allow flexibility the DCO corridor will be narrower.

SP Manweb will be submitting a draft version of the Consultation Report, DCO, EM and land and works plans to the Planning Inspectorate prior to submission. This is likely to be in October 2014.

60 different landowners have been identified along the route corridor and SP Manweb has also sent out 99 requests for information to identify other currently unknown landowners.

SP Manweb wished to seek clarification of their role at the acceptance stage of the PA 2008 process. The Planning Inspectorate explained that applicants do not have a specific role at acceptance; the Planning Inspectorate may request applicants to send copies of the consultation correspondence if required. It was explained to SP Manweb that the opportunity to publish the application documents once the application has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate will be possible shortly. Normal practice has been to publish the application documents after a document has been accepted for the purposes of examination.

The Planning Inspectorate was informed that the application for development consent would be submitted in Q1 2015.