

Mr. Hefin Jones,  
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By email - [NorthWalesConnection@pins.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:NorthWalesConnection@pins.gsi.gov.uk)

Your ref:- EN020015  
28 January, 2019

Dear Mr. Jones,

### **Planning Act 2008**

#### **Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC for an Order Granting Development Consent for the North Wales Connection Project.**

#### **Request that the Preliminary Meeting should not occur before 1 June 2019**

Since the Secretary of State accepted the North Wales Connection Project application for Examination in 2018 there has been a material change in circumstances.

On 17 January Duncan Hawthorne of Horizon Nuclear Power announced:-

*"...We have been in close discussions with the UK Government, in cooperation with the Government of Japan, on the financing and associated commercial arrangements for our project for some years now....[W]e will be suspending the development of the Wylfa Newydd project, ...until a solution can be found. In the meantime we will take steps to reduce our presence but keep the option to resume development in future".*

On 21 January Andrew Webb, Executive Director at Horizon Nuclear Power, wrote to the Planning Inspectorate and provided some useful additional information:-

*"....With respect to the Development Consent Order.... currently in progress Horizon will continue with the ongoing programme whilst it seeks opinion from Stakeholders and other interested parties on the best way forward. This will take place over the next few weeks".*

National Grid is proposing that the Preliminary Meeting for North Wales Connection project should be delayed until June to allow for:-

1. the completion of the discussions about the best way forward mentioned by Andrew Webb in his letter of 21 January; and
2. the closure of the Wylfa Newydd application, with consequent certainty about a range of topics including the construction programme, related traffic movements, and cumulative impact assessment; and
3. National Grid to discuss with the local planning authorities and other relevant stakeholders how revisions to the Horizon application might affect this application; and
4. time to develop appropriate amendments to the North Wales Connection, if required, in consultation with others; and
5. sufficient time for Interested Parties and anyone else affected by the application to consider what representations they may wish to make on any revisions at the Preliminary Meeting.

### **Securing our energy supply for future generations.**

If the Preliminary Meeting is delayed as requested, it will not result in a cessation of work. National Grid proposes to :-

- (a) continue discussions with the local planning authorities, Welsh Government, and Natural Resources Wales, and
- (b) publish details of any proposed revisions to the Application as a result of any new information coming forward from the Wylfa Newydd Examination, or arising from the delay itself, and
- (c) seek to advance Statements of Common Ground where possible.

National Grid believes that this delay would give the opportunity for a more well-informed Examination. It is believed that this would assist all parties in putting forward their views on the application, and result in a more efficient Examination stage. It may also have the advantage of providing additional preparation time for parties currently involved in the Wylfa Newydd Examination.

The outcome of Horizon's discussions with their stakeholders and other interested parties may require revisions to this proposal. You will be informed if this is the case.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely,



Gareth Williams  
Senior Project Manager.  
North Wales Connection Project

**Sicrhau ein cyflenwad ynni ar gyfer cenedlaethau'r dyfodol.**