



The Planning Inspectorate Yr Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

Meeting note

File reference	EN020015
Status	Final
Author	Kath Dunne
Date	11 February 2016
Meeting with	National Grid
Venue	Planning Inspectorate Offices, Temple Quay House
Attendees	<u>National Grid:</u> Jacqui Fenn – National Grid Eloise Frank – National Grid <u>Planning Inspectorate:</u> Kath Dunne – Infrastructure Planning Lead Frances Russell – EIA and Land Rights Manager Hannah Pratt – Senior EIA and Land Rights Advisor Alison Down – EIA and Land Rights Advisor
Meeting objectives	Telecon - update meeting regarding the North Wales Connection Project
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

National Grid was familiar with the Planning Inspectorate's statutory duty, under section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 as amended (PA 2008), to record the advice that is given in relation to an application or a potential application and to make this publicly available. National Grid was also aware that any advice given by the Planning Inspectorate does not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) can rely.

Outreach

National Grid stated that the local authorities are keen for the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) to hold an outreach event to explain the Planning Act 2008 process to key stakeholders. National Grid will provide PINS with the relevant contact details for the local authorities. PINS suggested that the outreach event also covers consultees related to the Wylfa Newydd proposal and PINS would be keen to arrange site visits for both proposals.

Statement of Community Consultation

National Grid has liaised with Anglesey County Council and Gwynedd Council regarding the Statement of Community Consultation. Anglesey intend to take the draft SoCC to full committee, however the committee meets only three times per year. Therefore National Grid may consult Anglesey on an outline draft SoCC in May (in time for the committee meeting) and follow up with a more detailed version (including locations and timings of events) when the information is available at a later date. Gwynedd does not intend to take the SoCC to full committee, therefore National Grid may consult Gwynedd when the SoCC contains the dates and venues for the consultation sessions.

National Grid asked for a good example SoCC, PINS confirmed that the Richborough Connection SoCC was comprehensive, although it contained extra information required by the TEN-E Regulation.

Neighboring Community Councils in Wales

National Grid queried the difference in The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 regarding consultation with Community Councils in Wales and Parish Councils in England. PINS confirmed that applicants with proposals in Wales must continue to consult adjoining Community Councils, as well as host Community Councils and directed National Grid to Advice Note three: EIA Notification and Consultation which gives PINS' interpretation of the regulations.

Scoping

National Grid confirmed that they intend to request a scoping opinion in April 2016 and queried when The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 regulation 9 list would be shared with them. PINS confirmed that the list is produced on receipt of a regulation 6 notification and shapefile and if received with a scoping request, is usually issued with the scoping opinion. PINS confirmed that the list is produced for the purposes of EIA notification and scoping consultation and not the applicant's section 42 consultation. National Grid confirmed that they will ensure they are satisfied that the scope of their s42 consultation is adequate, and will not rely on the Regulation 9 list in this respect.

National Grid intend to write to the relevant Community Councils prior to the submission of the scoping request, to explain the purpose of the scoping consultation and that this consultation will be undertaken shortly.

National Grid are considering which works to include in their scoping request and confirmed that options will be included within the request.

Menai Strait crossing

National Grid is undertaking information events in early summer 2016 on the Menai Strait crossing and explained that this approach has been taken (as opposed to consultation) as the difference between the current crossing options will be based on technical considerations. The information events will explain the options and the differences between them.

Route to consent

National Grid has worked with its legal team and presented to local authorities and

Natural Resources Wales on their proposals of what should be included within a Town and Country Planning application, and an application under the Planning Act 2008.

Land Interests

PINS advised National Grid to ensure it consults with all relevant persons in section 44 of the PA 2008, and to ensure the book of reference information and their consultee lists are regularly checked and updated where necessary.