



Meeting note

File reference	EN020015
Status	Final
Author	Sian Thomas
Date	11 September 2015
Meeting with	National Grid
Venue	Planning Inspectorate Offices, Temple Quay House
Attendees	Katherine King (Case Manager) Nicholas Coombes (Case Manager) Sian Thomas (Assistant Case Officer) David Price (EIA Manager) Matt Durham (Senior Project Manager, National Grid) Eloise Frank (Project Officer, National Grid) Jacqui Fenn (Consents Officer, National Grid) Steven Edwards (Senior Environmental Planner, SP Manweb)
Meeting objectives	SP Manweb & National Grid Update Meeting
Circulation	All above

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) advised that under its openness policy a meeting note would be taken and published on the National Infrastructure pages of the Planning Portal website; including any advice given under s51 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008). It was also noted that any such advice would not constitute legal advice upon which the applicant (or others) could rely.

1. National Grid, North Wales Update

National Grid provided an overview of the project explaining how the proposal had developed over time and what actions needed to be taken to proceed. National Grid stated that during the previous meeting, 8 months ago, with the Inspectorate, progress on the North Wales connection was reliant on Horizon's proposed new nuclear power station at Wylfa, which was not far through its own pre-application process. However, as an update, National Grid clarified that the Horizon proposal was now actively progressing and that this allowed for National Grid to set out a brief timetable for the proposal:

- Scoping is to take place during March/April 2016
- The section 42 is planned for October 2016
- The Development Consent Order (DCO) is to be submitted in October 2017.

This may of course be subject to change however, in terms of deadlines, National Grid stated that they are currently on track to achieving these proposed dates.

Due to a number of large scale energy projects that are currently proposed in North Wales, National Grid stated that there was a need to strengthen the existing network to accommodate the proposals put forward. National Grid stated that the project currently proposes a new overhead line with underground cables at the Menai Strait to connect Horizon Nuclear Power's Wylfa Newydd to the electricity network.

The section 42 consultation will include the full scheme as follows:

- The scheme will run from Wylfa Newydd to Pentir substation, Gwynndd
- An underground line for 2/3km beneath the Menai Strait
- Overhead line will be 30km in length
- The proposed new connection will broadly follow the existing line that connects the current Magnox Power Station
- The proposal is likely to include Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA) in respect of associated development
- In terms of the wider works, National Grid intend on updating the Inspectorate with the additional works at Pentir
- Part of the existing line (Pentir to Trawsfyndd) is 400k/v and is shared equally between National Grid and SP Manweb and a section of this is currently underground (Glaslyn). Work may also be required to this section dependent on background generation.

Following the above update, the Inspectorate queried whether the works proposed for the North Wales Connection (Pentir to Trawsfyndd) were essential for Horizon's proposed new nuclear power station and for wind farm power generation within the area.

In response, National Grid stated that there was a need for replacing cables at Glaslyn Estuary if all proposed generation progresses. At present, there are three cables and these will need to be replaced and increased to accommodate the proposed generation. A new substation may be required to supply the local District Network Operator.

The Inspectorate requested for National Grid to provide a map alongside the various proposals to assist in preparation for a further meeting with the Inspectorate prior to the next stage of pre-application of the proposal.

National Grid stated that the Local Authorities are already in dialogue with National Grid in relation to the proposal. Due to the complexity of submission of National Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) within Wales, National Grid stated that there is still a need to consult to establish the extent of works that will be included within the DCO and what is classified as associated development.

The Inspectorate advised that it would be beneficial to arrange a meeting within 1 to 2 months time to discuss the proposal further with the legal team present. The Inspectorate also made National Grid aware of the Brechfa Forest Connection in Mid Wales that is due to have it's Preliminary Meeting (PM) on Tuesday 6 October 2015 and advised that it could possibly be beneficial to review this case as the Brechfa Forest Connection involves the installation of a 132kV electric line of 28.6km

(approximately 25.3km above ground and 3.3km below ground,) connecting the consented Brechfa Forest West Wind Farm to an existing overhead line near Llandyfaelog.

National Grid expressed their interest in signing up to the Pre-Application Prospectus Plan with the Inspectorate as it would assist with setting out realistic timescales as well as allocating various resources. The importance of doing this correctly was emphasised due to the fact that 2017 is anticipated to have several NSIP projects coming forward to the Inspectorate.

Due to the poor internet access in North Wales, to ensure that there was adequate community consultation, the Inspectorate advised National Grid to consider digitalising webpages for consultation at accessible locations such as a local library. National Grid indicated it has consulted with the Local Authorities and agreed in its consultation strategy an approach for Welsh language. This includes Welsh speakers who can talk people through the technical documents.

Specific decisions/ follow up required:

- Inspectorate to send New Project Form to National Grid
- National Grid to send the Inspectorate a map showing the options of the Wylfa – Menai proposal
- Following the above, the Inspectorate are due to arrange a meeting to discuss the Wylfa – Menai proposal including National Grid’s legal team. The Inspectorate to place October 2017 date as anticipated submission date on their website