



The Planning Inspectorate Yr Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

Meeting note

File reference	EN020015
Project	North Wales Connection
Status	Fianl
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	17 May 2018
Meeting with	National Grid
Venue	Teleconference
Attendees	Planning Inspectorate Chris White –Infrastructure Planning Lead Hefin Jones – Case Manager Siân Evans – Case Officer Hannah Pratt - Senior EIA and Land Rights Advisor Alison Down - EIA and Land Rights Advisor National Grid Ken Guest - DCO Manager Jacqui Fenn - Senior Consents Officer
Meeting objectives	Project update
Circulation	All attendees

Introductions

National Grid (the Applicant) and the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) case team introduced themselves and their respective roles. The Inspectorate outlined its openness policy and ensured those present understood that any issues discussed and advice given would be recorded and placed on the Inspectorate's website under section 51 (s51) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008). Further to this, it was made clear that any advice given did not constitute legal advice upon which the Applicant (or others) can rely.

Project Update

The Applicant advised that they intend to submit their application in September 2018, based on the current expected submission date of the Wylfa Newydd application. The Applicant explained that they are completing some additional environmental surveys due to some expired data and previously having no land access. The Applicant explained that some surveys may not be completed in time to include within the application documents and that, if this is the case, it has agreed with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) the assumptions that would be made within the Environmental Statement. The results of the surveys may therefore be submitted as an addendum to the Environmental Statement



The Planning Inspectorate Yr Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

in the Pre-examination period. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to ensure that it was content that the Environmental Statement met the requirements of the EIA Regulations. It also explained that the Examining Authority (ExA) would decide whether or not to accept these at the start of the Examination therefore the Applicant may wish to share these with relevant parties beforehand.

The Applicant explained that there is still some land that they do not have access to which is required for great crested newt surveys and they intend to apply for access under s172 of the Housing and Planning Act. The Inspectorate explained that [advice](#) had been given on this issue.

The Inspectorate enquired whether the two route options would still be included in the application if it is submitted in September. The Applicant advised that it would as this will not be resolved before submission.

The Applicant advised that engagement with stakeholders is ongoing and that the Local Authorities and NRW have requested statements of common ground be started.

The Inspectorate enquired about the proposed third Menai crossing. The Applicant explained that they are looking at the feasibility of utilising the crossing and are working with the Welsh Government on this. The Applicant advised that it will include information on this issue in their cumulative effects assessment in the Environmental Statement. The Inspectorate enquired whether the Applicant had engaged with OFGEM on this application. The Applicant confirmed that they had but were not aware of whether they would take part in the Examination of the application.

Examination scenarios

The Applicant referred to a [meeting note](#) between the Inspectorate and Isle of Anglesey County Council which referred to 'different examination scenarios' in relation to handling the Wylfa Newydd and North Wales Connection examinations. The Inspectorate explained that the Case Managers for each project would work closely when drafting timetables, taking into consideration holiday periods etc.

Translation

The Applicant stated that they understood the Inspectorate would translate any submissions submitted in Welsh and asked if these would be shared with other parties. The Inspectorate advised that any translation undertaken by the Inspectorate would only be for the Examining Authority and it would not be possible to share these with other parties.



The Planning Inspectorate Yr Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

Fees

The Applicant enquired whether there were any planned fee increases. The Inspectorate advised that fees increase at the start of every financial year, in line with inflation.

Section 150 (s150) consent

The Applicant enquired whether the consents to be included in the DCO under s150 need to be finalised before submission. The Inspectorate advised that this should be progressed as far as possible by the submission date.