



Meeting note

File reference	EN020017
Status	Final
Author	Kath Dunne
Date	27 August 2015
Meeting with	National Grid
Venue	Temple Quay House
Attendees	Ken Guest – National Grid Emer McDonnell – National Grid Miriam Alvi – National Grid Kath Dunne – Planning Inspectorate Ian Wallis – Planning Inspectorate Gail Boyle – Planning Inspectorate Will Spencer – Planning Inspectorate Mel Bischer – Consents Service Unit
Meeting objectives	Project update meeting and introduction to draft documents
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

The participants introduced themselves and their roles. National Grid (NG) were made aware of the Planning Inspectorate's (PINS) openness policy, that any advice given will be recorded and placed on the PINS website under s51 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) as amended. Any advice given does not constitute legal advice on which the developer or others can rely.

PINS and NG agreed that two hard copies of the application documents and ten electronic versions should be submitted (Five with confidential information and five for Website/Public Information). NG confirmed that Graylings are the communications agency being used for this project, and they have an office in London and Bristol.

PINS and NG agreed that the TEN-E Regulation will be referenced on each application document, along with the PA 2008 and associated regulation reference. The relevant articles within the TEN-E Regulation will be referenced on (and within) the consultation report.

NG is researching potential preliminary meeting and hearing venues and will submit its findings to PINS once it is completed. NG confirmed that hotel availability will be challenging in the area.

NG explained that they intend to use one hard copy deposit location for the application documents; PINS were content with this approach. PINS explained that the examination submission documents will be made available to the public in electronic format, therefore free internet access will also be required at this hard copy location. In addition, PINS advised NG to source other publically available locations (along the proposed route) where internet access is free, to enable parties to view the application and examination documents electronically.

NG confirmed that it intends to submit the application on 8 December 2015.

NG continue to hold monthly meetings with the host local authorities. In recent meetings they have discussed the Planning Performance Agreement, the mitigation schedule (specifically embedded mitigation) and the draft Development Consent Order. NG will produce a joint statement of common ground (SOCG) with the host local authorities, and a separate SOCG on transport with Kent County Council. NG informed PINS that currently 14 SOCGS are in discussion, and anticipate that these will be finalised after submission of the application in December 2015.

PINS and NG agreed to hold monthly meetings until submission. The next meeting will be early October and PINS will produce a written response to the draft application documents a couple of days before this meeting.

NG explained Ken Guest's 'DCO manager' role for this project. He will be PINS' main point of contact for this proposal going forward with the main responsibilities of coordinating submission of the application and examination documents. PINS agreed to send future correspondence to Ken and to copy Emer McDonnell (NG) in.

NG provided a summary of the key environmental constraints and considerations along the route.

NG will be screening the HRA with Natural England in the coming weeks. NG intend to apply to Natural England for draft protected species licences for bats, great crested newts and dormice prior to the submission of the DCO application. However, they do not expect to have the relevant letters of no impediment in place until a later date. NG have moved a section of the route to avoid a badger set. PINS explained the need to clearly mark any documents in the submission that contain environmentally sensitive information and are deemed confidential.

NG will detail compliance with the NPSs within the planning statement application document.

NG explained that extra land has been included within the Order limits since statutory consultation and they are consulting with individual landowners on this prior to submission. NG explained that generally this relates to an increase in order limits along the 132kV line to be dismantled in relation to extinguishing of rights, but also includes minor amendments to the order limits in relation to access routes and tree removal/management in relation to statutory clearance to conductors. NG should explain this thoroughly in the consultation report.

NG explained that they will reference previously produced reports (regarding route selection) within their Environmental Statement (ES), and queried if these reports need to be submitted and if so, could they be submitted outside of the ES, to reduce the number and size of appendices. PINS advised that these documents should be submitted and that, provided the ES contains thorough and sufficient information regarding the alternatives, it would be acceptable for these documents to be

submitted outside of the ES, within the application. The documents should be clearly referenced in the ES however.

NG explained they are working with the Environment Agency and Internal Drainage Boards regarding flood defence consents. NG confirmed that they will be applying for these consents separately and do not wish to disapply the relevant legislation to incorporate them within the DCO application.

NG also confirmed that they are unlikely to require an environmental permit for a waste activity or an abstraction licence. NG are including a deemed marine licence within their draft DCO as the River Stour is tidal at the point it intends to construct two temporary crossings.

PINS agreed that it would be helpful if a 'guide to application documents' was submitted with the application and also re-submitted with each examination deadline.

NG will submit access plans at the required scale along the route of the proposed electric line, however where the access arrangements (mainly diversions) occur further away from the route, NG intends to provide two plans at a smaller scale for ease of reference. PINS noted that this does not conform with the regulations however it is a sensible approach to take in this instance. NG should explain within their application why they feel it is necessary to take this approach.

NG provided PINS with the following draft documents for comment in early October:

- Draft DCO
- Explanatory Memorandum
- Works Plans
- Land Plans
- Consultation Report
- Funding statement

Specific decisions / follow up required?

PINS agreed to provide written comments on the draft documents a couple of days before the next meeting.

NG will send PINS a list of SOCGs it is producing. NG will also list these in the planning statement to be submitted with the application.

NG will update the TEN-E schedule of consents, produced by PINS, to confirm which consents are required for this project (including any extra consents) and progress in obtaining them.

PINS to inform NG how strict the 50MB electronic document limit is regarding application documents. For example if a document is 60MB, is it worth NG splitting it in two. Can certain documents be provided at a lower resolution?