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To interested parties, statutory parties
and other persons invited to the
preliminary meeting

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN060004

Date: 14 September 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) – Section 89 and the Infrastructure
Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rule 8 (as amended)**

**Application by National Grid Gas plc for an Order Granting Development
Consent for the River Humber Gas Pipeline Replacement Project
Examination timetable and procedure**

I write to tell you about the procedural decisions following the Preliminary Meeting held on 9 September 2015 at the Mercure Hull Royal Hotel, Hull. This letter also provides you with the examination timetable, a link to the initial questions that I am asking in the examination and other matters.

All documentation associated with this project, including a note of the Preliminary Meeting and the audio recording taken at that meeting can be found using this link:

<http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/projects/yorkshire-and-the-humber/river-humber-gas-pipeline-replacement-project/>

Procedural decision and examination timetable

I have made procedural decisions about the way in which the application is to be examined. The examination timetable is attached as **Annex B**, and references to numbered deadlines in this letter are references to this timetable. This updates the draft examination timetable that was included with my letter of 22 July 2015.

If I consider it necessary to vary the timetable I will write to interested parties and 'other persons' and publish the changes on our website. I will also do this if the date, time and place of any hearings are changed, except in the event of an adjournment.

At the Preliminary Meeting representations were made by Councillor Wells on the need to carefully consider the traffic routing associated with the project. This will be part of the examination and will be discussed at the November hearings.

Mr & Mrs Burns identified they had found difficulty accessing the application documents and arrangements were discussed to resolve that and Mr Dale of DDM Agriculture identified he was representing a number of parties with interest in the examination and the procedure for requesting their inclusion under section 102 of the Planning Act was explained. Mr Dale was also requested to supply evidence of his client's instruction to act.

Prior to the Preliminary Meeting I received and accepted a letter on 30 July 2015 from the Environment Agency (EA) asking for items to be added to the Issue Specific Hearing on 17 October and I have amended the timetable accordingly to reflect their request. However regarding agendas it should be noted that the actual agenda on the day of each hearing may be subjected to change at the discretion of the Examining Authority. This letter also requested that I consider allocating additional time for discussing hydro-geology. During the meeting I explained that having timetabled three days for the hearings I felt that there remained sufficient flexibility within that period to ensure adequate time is available. The applicant explained that good progress was being made on a Statement of Common Ground with the Environment Agency and that a version indicating that progress would be available by Deadline 1.

At the Preliminary Meeting the applicant informed me that they had been in negotiation with BT Open Reach and Public Health England and requested the removal of the Examining Authority's requirement for a Statement of Common Ground with each party. This is agreed but I would ask that details of negotiations and the outcome with BT Open Reach be included in the applicant's written representation at Deadline 1.

Examining Authority's First Round of Written Questions

I have decided to ask a number of written questions. These questions are now published on our website and can be accessed through the following link:

<http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/document/3311235>

Responses to these questions must be received on or before **Deadline 2, Monday 12 October 2015**.

Local Impact Reports (LIRs)

This letter has been sent to all Local Authorities as defined in s56A of the PA 2008, and I invite them to submit Local Impact Reports by **Deadline 2, Monday 12 October 2015**.

These are to be sent to the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) using the email or postal address at the top of this letter, quoting reference EN060004 and your unique reference number, if one is quoted on this letter, or in the covering email if you have received this electronically.

Guidance for submission of written representations

I also invite all interested parties to submit written representations as well as comments on relevant representations. All representations in writing must be received by **Deadline 2, Monday 12 October 2015** to the Planning Inspectorate

using the email or postal address at the top of this letter, quoting reference EN060004 and your unique reference number.

To assist in timely processing, written representations and comments on relevant representations must be sent by the deadline specified.

The Inspectorate requests that interested parties send, where practicable, electronic copies of their submissions as email attachments, to Riverhumbergaspipeline@pins.gsi.gov.uk on or before the applicable deadline.

Most people engage with our process via our website, where all submissions are published. Parties are therefore asked consider this when formatting the electronic copies of their submissions and to avoid submissions made up of large numbers of small files, or excessively large files, or which are otherwise not optimised or unnecessarily difficult to navigate.

Electronic attachments should be clearly labelled with subject title and not exceed 12MB for each email. Timely submissions in advance of the deadlines set in the timetable are encouraged. Where an electronic submission exceeds 12MB, we will accept the postal submission of an electronic document on portable media (such as a CD or USB flash drive). Providing links to websites where your submissions can be viewed is not normally acceptable, because it does not amount to submitting them.

Parties who are not comfortable with making submissions electronically are welcome to make their submission by post.

There is no prescribed form for written representations. Written representations can deal with any relevant matter. They are not restricted to the matters set out in my Initial Assessment of Principal Issues which were discussed at the Preliminary Meeting, nor restricted to the questions I have asked. Please note that under Rule 10(4) of the Examination Procedure Rules any person, other than the applicant, who submits a written representation must identify in their written representation those parts of the application with which they agree and those parts with which they do not agree, and must state the reasons for such disagreement.

Furthermore, in accordance with DCLG 'Planning Act 2008: Guidance for the examination of applications for development consent for nationally significant infrastructure projects (March 2015)', participants should normally provide with their written statements, *'the data, methodology and assumptions used to support their submissions'*.

Notification of a wish to attend a hearing

As set out in Annex B, if you would like to attend a hearing please notify the Planning Inspectorate on or before **Monday 12 October 2015**.

If an interested party wishes to attend a hearing they should indicate in their written representations which topics they wish to address at the hearing.

Procedure at hearings and notification of wish to speak at hearings

The procedure to be followed at hearings is set out in Rule 14 of the Examination Procedure Rules. Any oral representations must be based on either the relevant or

written representations made by the person by whom or on whose behalf the oral representations are made. I shall be responsible for the oral questioning of a person giving evidence but your attention is drawn to Rule 14(5) of the Rules and the circumstances that apply to cross-questioning between parties.

If you wish to speak at a hearing you should notify me by Deadline 2.

My examination will be primarily written, and I will decide whether a hearing on a particular issue or topic is necessary. This decision is not connected to how relevant or important I consider an issue or topic to be.

Site inspections

At the Preliminary Meeting, I identified that I have already undertaken two unaccompanied visits to the proposed construction sites at Goxhill and Paull and that I also drove and viewed the proposed traffic routes. Details of these visits have been published on the website. I asked that parties read these documents before making requests for accompanied or further unaccompanied site visits but explained that if there were features that any person would like my attention drawn to during the examination then I would consider such requests.

I have requested submissions of nominations for any additional unaccompanied or accompanied site visits by Deadline 2. With any such requests you must indicate the reason for the proposed visit and location that you would like me to view from. I will then decide if, where, when and how I visit the locations requested. If possible, I will conduct visits unaccompanied by the parties. Please be aware that I cannot carry out unaccompanied inspections on private land or where special measures with regards to safety must be followed.

The itineraries and routes of any accompanied site visit (of which notice is given in annex B) will be published on our website approximately seven days before the visit. Please note that the site inspection is not an opportunity to make any oral representations or give evidence in relation to the application.

Deadlines for receipt of documents and requests for hearings

It is important to note that if you do not submit the information by the dates specified in the timetable, I may disregard them.

Award of costs

Your attention is also drawn to the possibility of the award of costs against interested parties who behave unreasonably.

You should be aware of the guidance issued by the Department of Communities and Local Government (July 2013) entitled 'Award of costs: examinations of applications for development consent orders' that applies to National Infrastructure Projects. The guidance is available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awards-of-costs-examinations-of-applications-for-development-consent-orders>

Statutory Parties

If you are a statutory party, or a local authority without direct responsibility in the proposed development area, as defined in S88(3)(c) &(d) of the Act, and have not made a relevant representation, then you should inform the case team if you wish to become an interested party by **Monday 12 October 2015**.

All persons are able to visit the relevant project page on our website to stay informed of the progress of the examination of the application.

Management of Information

The Planning Inspectorate has a commitment to information transparency. Therefore, all information submitted for this project (if accepted by the ExA) and a record of advice which the Planning Inspectorate has given can be found on the Planning Portal together with the name of the person or organisation who asked for the advice. The privacy of any other personal information has been protected in accordance with our Information Charter.

Yours faithfully

Jeremy Aston

Jeremy Aston
Examining Authority

Annexes:

Annex A. Availability of relevant representations and application documents

Annex B. Timetable for examination of the application

Advice may be given about applying for an order granting development consent or making representations about an application (or a proposed application). This communication does not however constitute legal advice upon which you can rely and you should obtain your own legal advice and professional advice as required.

A record of the advice which is provided will be recorded on the Planning Inspectorate website together with the name of the person or organisation who asked for the advice. The privacy of any other personal information will be protected in accordance with our Information Charter which you should view before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.

Availability and inspection of representations and documents

On the National Infrastructure pages of the Planning Portal website:

<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/yorkshire-and-the-humber/river-humber-gas-pipeline-replacement-project/>

For inspection and copying:

Name of deposit location

Hull Central Library Albion Street
Hull
HU1 3TF

Opening times:

Monday : 9:30am - 5:00 pm
Tuesday: 9:30 am - 5:00 pm
Wednesday : 1:00 pm - 7:30pm
Thursday: 9:30 - 7.30pm
Friday : 9:30 am -1:00 pm

Copying charges:

A4 Black and White (10p per sheet) or A4 Colour (50p per sheet)

For inspection and copying:

Name of deposit location

Hedon Library
31 St Augustine's Gate
Hedon
HU12 8EX

Opening times:

Monday: Closed
Tuesday: 9:30 am - 7:00 pm
Wednesday: 9:30 am - 5:00 pm
Thursday: 9:30 am - 5:00 pm
Friday: 9:30 am - 7:00 pm
Saturday: 9:30 am - 12.30 pm
Copying charges: A4 Black and White (10p per sheet) or A4 Colour (50p per sheet)

Name of deposit location

Barton Library
Providence House
Holydyke
Barton upon Humber

North Lincolnshire
DN18 5PR

Opening times:

Monday: 9:30 am to 6:00 pm

Tuesday: 9:30 am to 5:00 pm

Wednesday: 9:30 am to 2:00 pm

Thursday: 9:30 am to 5:00 pm

Friday: 9:30 am to 5pm

Saturday: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Copying charges: A4 Black and White - A4(10p per sheet) A3(20p per sheet)or A4
Colour (35p per sheet) A3 (50p per sheet)

Timetable for examination of the application

The Examining Authority's (ExA) examination of the application takes the form of consideration of written representations about the application. The ExA will also consider any oral representations made at the hearings. The ExA is under a duty to **complete** the examination of the application by the end of the period of 6 months beginning with the day after the close of the Preliminary Meeting.

Item	Matters	Due Dates
1.	Preliminary Meeting	9 September 2015
2.	Issue by ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination timetable • ExA first written questions 	14 September 2015
3.	Deadline 1 Deadline for the receipt of the following documents requested by ExA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statements of Common Ground (Drafts) and summary schedule • Updated plans • Updated Schedule of Mitigation Measures • Updated Schedule of Progress of Voluntary negotiations • In-combination assessment evidence for Humber Estuary SAC; survey data summary table; and updated Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening and integrity matrices 	23 September 2015
4.	Deadline 2 Deadline for receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on relevant representations (RRs) • Summaries of all RR's exceeding 1500 words • Written Representations (WRs) by all interested parties. <p style="text-align: center;"><i>All parties should submit their full written case</i></p>	12 October 2015

and supporting evidence at this stage, as any representations to be heard at a hearing should be based on RR or WR

- Summaries of all WRs exceeding 1500 words
- Local Impact Reports (LIRs) from any local authorities
- Responses to ExA's first written questions (ExQ1)
- Updated ES chapters

Note: Where ExQ1 responses are relevant to matters contained in the SOCGs please ensure that SOCGs are updated

- Comments on Statements of Common Ground (Drafts) from Deadline 1
- Notification of wish to speak at a Compulsory Acquisition hearing
- Notification of wish to speak at the Issue Specific Hearing on the draft Development Consent Order (DCO)
- Notification of wish to speak at any other Issue Specific Hearing
- Notification of wish to speak at an Open Floor Hearing
- Notification from statutory parties, or a local authority without direct responsibility in the proposed development area, of a wish to be considered an interested party
- Nominations of locations to be inspected during unaccompanied site inspections, the features to be observed there, with reasons for each nomination; and
- Nominations of locations to be inspected during accompanied site inspections, the features to be observed there, with reasons for each nomination.

The ExA has already undertaken USVs from public areas and will publish a site note of these visits.

- Any other information requested by the ExA

5.	<p>Issue by ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification of date, time and place for hearings and accompanied site visit(s) <p><i>Agendas for each hearing will be published on the project page of the National Infrastructure pages of the Planning Portal website seven calendar days before the hearing is due to take place but will not otherwise be published or circulated.</i></p>	<p>No later than 27 October 2015</p>
6.	<p>Deadline 3</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on WRs and responses to comments on RRs • Comments on Local Impact Reports • Comments on responses to ExA's first written questions • Progress report on draft SOCGs and updated summary schedule • Comments on any other documents submitted at Deadline 1 • Any other information requested by the ExA 	<p>2 November 2015</p>
7.	<p>Date reserved for Issue Specific Hearing relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction – how the project will be planned and executed and its effects; • Flood risk and drainage • Hydro-geology • Biodiversity, Ecology and Natural Environment impacts • Noise impacts • Transportation and Traffic impacts • Debris, Waste and Contamination impacts • Historic Environment • Navigation 	<p>17 November 2015</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape and Visual Impact • Socio Economic Effects • Any other matter requested by the ExA <p><i>Agendas for each hearing will be published on the project page of our website seven calendar days before the hearing is due to take place but will not otherwise be published or circulated. The actual agenda on the day of each hearing may be subjected to change at the discretion of the ExA.</i></p>	
8.	<p>Date reserved for Issue Specific Hearing relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The draft application Development Consent Order (DCO) – a high level review the certified documents and plans • any other matters relevant to achieve efficient progress of the examination, including any matters not fully discussed in previous days hearing 	18 November 2015 - AM
9.	<p>Date reserved for Issue Specific Hearing relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compulsory acquisition issues 	18 November 2015 - PM
10.	<p>Date reserved for Open Floor Hearing (if required, this will only be held if any requests are received by Deadline 2. If there are no requests, the hearing will be cancelled and interested parties will be notified through the banner on the project webpage.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evening session 	18 November 2015
11.	<p>Date reserved for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accompanied site inspection(s) 	19 November 2015
12.	<p>Deadline 4</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-hearing documents including written summaries of oral cases, of any evidence or documents presented, or amendments requested by the ExA • Revised draft DCO from the applicant taking into account all issues raised at hearings and in RRs/WRs (including both clean and track-change versions) • Response to comments from documents received 	27 November 2015

	<p>at Deadline 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated SoCGs and summary schedule (<i>use RAG to highlight; red for no progress, or significant issues remain in contention; amber in hand and on track for conclusion;; green – agreed</i>) Any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline 	
13.	<p>Publication by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second written questions (if required) <p><i>A banner on the River Humber Gas Pipeline replacement project pages of the National Infrastructure website will be updated on this day to detail the documents published. If second questions are not required the banner will be updated to note this.</i></p>	8 December 2015
14.	<p>Deadline 5</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses to second written questions (if applicable) 	22 December 2015
15.	<p>Dates reserved for Issue Specific Hearings on DCO and other outstanding matters</p> <p><i>Agendas for each hearing will be published on the project page of our website seven calendar days before the hearing is due to take place but will not otherwise be published or circulated. The actual agenda on the day of each hearing may be subjected to change at the discretion of the ExA.</i></p>	5 and 6 January 2016
16.	<p>Deadline 6</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post hearing documents arising from hearings including written summaries of oral cases put, of evidence and of any documents or amendments requested by the ExA Applicant’s revised draft DCO taking account of issues and comments raised, clean and track-change Updated SOCGs (where progress has been made since Deadline 4) and summary schedule Comments on responses to the second round of 	13 January 2016

	<p>questions (if issued) ExQ2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline 	
17.	<p>Publication by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report on Implications for European Sites (RIES) ExA's Draft DCO <p><i>A banner on the River Humber Gas Pipeline replacement project pages of the National Infrastructure website will be updated on this day to detail the documents published.</i></p>	1 February 2016
18.	<p>Deadline 7</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments on Report on Implications for European Sites (RIES) Comments on ExA's draft DCO Comments on SOCG where updated Executed final version SOCGs (If these contain remaining points of contention then final position statements for each signatory required for ExA judgement) Comments on any other information submitted at Deadline 6 Revised Book of Reference taking into account all issues raised at hearings and in RRs/WRs (including both clean and track-change versions) Any other information requested by the ExA 	17 February 2016
19.	<p>Deadline 8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments on the responses to the RIES Comments on the responses to the ExA Draft DCO Comments on the executed final version SOCG from parties who are not signatories, or from the parties if document is not executed Responses to revised Book of Reference 	24 February 2016
20.	Time period reserved for issue by the ExA of;	26 February 2016

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any further information requests under Rule 17 (if required) 	
21.	<p>Deadline 9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses to any further information requested as required at item 20 (if required) comments on responses to revised Book of Reference 	4 March 2016
22.	The ExA is under a duty to complete the examination of the application by the end of the period of 6 months beginning with the day after the close of the Preliminary Meeting.	9 March 2016

Publication Dates

All information received will be published on our website as soon as practicable after the deadline for submissions: planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/yorkshire-and-the-humber/river-humber-gas-pipeline-replacement-project/

Hearing Agendas

Please note that we will aim to publish a detailed draft agenda which will be available on our website approximately seven calendar days before the hearing is due to take place but will not otherwise be published or circulated.

The actual agenda on the day of each hearing may be subjected to change at the discretion of the ExA.