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Planning Inspectorate begins examination process on National Grid's application for the Richborough Connection Project

Examination process gets underway for Kent project

08 Jun 2016

- Preliminary meeting marks the start of the Planning Inspectorate's six month examination period
- Interested parties have been invited to the meeting by the Planning Inspectorate and may be asked for their feedback throughout the examination process
- After the process ends the Planning Inspectorate will make a recommendation to the government who will make the final decision on the application

The Planning Inspectorate will be holding its Preliminary Meeting for National Grid's application to build a new overhead line connection between Richborough and Canterbury on Wednesday 8 June.

At this meeting the timetable will be set for the Planning Inspectorate's formal six month examination period. The period, which will include a series of hearings, is currently scheduled to start the following day (Thursday 9 June).

When the examination period finishes, the Planning Inspectorate will have three months to make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change as to whether or not the application should be approved. The Secretary of State will then have a further three months to make the final decision.

Anyone who registered their interest with the Planning Inspectorate has been invited by them to the preliminary meeting.

During the examination period, the Planning Inspectorate will also ask for the opinions of those who have registered an interest and may invite them to speak at the public hearings or provide a written response.

National Grid project manager Steve Self said: "This is the first step of the examination process. We'd like to thank everyone for their involvement over the last three years; their views have been vital in helping us shape our final proposals"

For more information contact the Planning Inspectorate case team dealing with the application on 0303 444 5000 or richborough@pins.gsi.gov.uk

Link: <http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/richborough-connection-project/>

Contact for media information only

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Notes for editors

For further information please contact Antony Quarrell, National Grid on 07810 853075 or the Planning Inspectorate's Press Office on 0303 444 5005.

For more information about the Richborough Connection project, please visit National Grid's project website www.richboroughconnection.co.uk or follow us on Twitter: @NGRichborough

Project background

Our project includes the following key elements:

- Construction of a 20km 400kV overhead line and pylons
- The removal of an existing 132kV UK Power Networks overhead line
- Localized temporary and permanent diversions of existing lower voltage overhead lines in the area, where our new proposed route would cross.
- Other works such as temporary access roads, highway works, and temporary construction compounds, protective scaffold structures and work sites

Nemo Link Limited

Nemo Link Limited is a joint project between National Grid International Ltd – a separately regulated National Grid company – and the Belgian electricity transmission system operator Elia.

Under the law Nemo Link must be treated the same as any other company applying to connect to the electricity transmission system.

For more information on this project go to www.nemo-link.com

For media information only on Nemo Link contact:

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Notes to Editors:

National Grid is pivotal to the energy systems in the UK and the north eastern United States. We aim to serve customers well and efficiently, supporting the communities in which we operate and making possible the energy systems of the future.

National Grid in the UK:

- We own and operate the electricity transmission network in England and Wales, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. We also operate, but do not own, the Scottish networks. Our networks comprise approximately 7,200 kilometres (4,474 miles) of overhead line, 1,500 kilometres (932 miles) of underground cable and 342 substations.
- We own and operate the gas National Transmission System in Great Britain, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. Our network comprises approximately 7,660 kilometres (4,760 miles) of high-pressure pipe and 618 above-ground installations.
- As Great Britain's System Operator (SO) we make sure gas and electricity is transported safely and efficiently from where it is produced to where it is consumed. From April 2019, Electricity System Operator (ESO) is a new standalone business within National Grid, legally separate from all other parts of the National Grid Group. This will provide the right environment to deliver a balanced and impartial ESO that can realise real benefits for consumers as we transition to a more decentralised, decarbonised electricity system.
- Other UK activities mainly relate to businesses operating in competitive markets outside of our core regulated businesses; including interconnectors, gas metering activities and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation terminal – all of which are now part of National Grid Ventures. National Grid Property is responsible for the management, clean-up and disposal of surplus sites in the UK. Most of these are former gas works.

Find out more about the energy challenge and how National Grid is helping find solutions to some of the challenges we face at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/news>

National Grid undertakes no obligation to update any of the information contained in this release, which speaks only as at the date of this release, unless required by law or regulation.

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