

[Home / Press Releases /](#)

## Consultation on North West Coast Connections project draws to a close

People urged to have their say on project to connect new nuclear power station into the national grid network in Cumbria

06 Dec 2016

- **New connection needed to link Moorside the new nuclear power station proposed in Cumbria into the electricity network**
- **Detailed plans on show at the remaining consultation events**
- **People urged to give their feedback to help shape proposals before consultation closes on 6 January**

National Grid is staging its final round of consultation events in Cumbria this month to give people the opportunity to help shape plans for the project to connect the proposed new nuclear power station at Moorside in Cumbria into the electricity network.

The company has nine more events scheduled in communities along the route of the proposed connection in December. These give people the opportunity to look at detailed plans and to talk to members of the North West Coast Connections team.

The closing date for feedback on the scheme is 6 January 2017.

Robert Powell, Project Manager said: "We have been talking to key groups and local communities about our project for six years now and we're having hundreds more conversations now with people about our plans during this latest consultation exercise."

"It is really important that people give us their feedback as this is likely this will be the last time we ask for people to comment on our plans for the connection as a whole. We expect to be in a position to apply to the Government next year for permission to build the connection."

National Grid is planning extensive measures to reduce the impact of the project on landscapes while balancing this with the need to keep customers energy bills affordable. These include:

- putting 23.4km (14.5 miles) of new line underground in the western section of the Lake District National Park
- placing cables in a tunnel measuring around 22km (13 miles) under Morecambe Bay
- removing many of the existing pylons owned by Electricity North West (ENW) and replacing them with fewer, taller pylons of its own operating at a greater voltage
- replacing the low voltage line in the area around the Hadrian's Wall UNESCO World Heritage Site with underground cables

Robert added: "We've worked hard to develop a project which we believe strikes the best balance between reducing the impact of the project on the environment and the cost of building the connection which is passed on to energy bill payers."

"People still have the chance to influence our proposals but we only have a small number of consultation events remaining. People will be able to visit our website for information and submit their feedback until 6 January 2017."

## **CONSULTATION**

National Grid's consultation will run until 6 January 2017. Between 15 November and 10 December there are 20 consultation events taking place (see Editors Notes for full list). People can also take part online on the project website and register their details for updates as the project progresses.

The project website can be found at: [www.northwestcoastconnections.com](http://www.northwestcoastconnections.com)

For further information about the project, please contact the project team direct using any of the following methods:

- Freephone: 0800 876 6990
- Email: [nationalgrid@northwestcoastconnections.com](mailto:nationalgrid@northwestcoastconnections.com)
- Freepost: Freepost NG NWCC

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Notes for editors

### 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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### In Media

- > [Press Releases](#)
- > [Media contacts](#)

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### United Kingdom

- > [Our business](#)
- > [Electricity](#)
- > [Gas](#)
- > [Operating responsibly](#)
- > [Investor factsheets](#)
- > [Presentations and webcasts](#)
- > [Annual reports](#)
- > [Biographies](#)

### United States

- > [Our business](#)
- > [Operating responsibly](#)
- > [Investor factsheets](#)
- > [Presentations and webcasts](#)
- > [Annual reports](#)
- > [Biographies](#)

