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Richborough Connection application moves to the next stage

Planning Inspectorate accepts National Grid's application for examination

15 Feb 2016

- Application will now be assessed before recommendation made to government who will make final decision
- People can make representations during the process

National Grid's application to build a new electricity connection between Richborough and Canterbury has been accepted for examination by the Planning Inspectorate.

The application will now be assessed and a recommendation made to government in around 12 months' time. Ultimately, the government will decide whether the new connection should be built.

From Wednesday 17 February, anyone who wants to make representations during the examination process can register their interest with the Planning Inspectorate. This can be done by filling in the "Registration and Relevant Representation Form" on the Planning Inspectorate's dedicated Richborough Connection project page:

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

Further information on this can be found on the Planning Inspectorate's dedicated Richborough Connection project page:

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

The deadline for representations is Friday April 1 2016.

The connection is needed to join the Nemo Link® (an electricity link between Zeebrugge in Belgium and Richborough, near Sandwich in the UK) to our high voltage electricity network. New connections like this are vital to make sure that the country has a safe, reliable and secure electricity supply to keep the lights on.

National Grid Project Manager Steve Self said: "We are delighted that the Planning Inspectorate has accepted our application for examination. It's the result of years of hard work and listening to people's views. We believe our route strikes the right balance between the sensitivities of a new overhead line in the area and the cost on everyone's bills."

Contact for media information only

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Notes for editors

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
- Localised 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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