

Bramford to Twinstead Connection Project

Notes of Meeting with Local Planning Authority officers
Tuesday 2 December 2014
Bramford substation

Attendees

Michael Wilks	Suffolk County Council (SCC)
Nick Ward	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils
Brian Smethurst	National Grid
Steve Knight Gregson	National Grid
Simon Pepper	National Grid
Jim Lewis	National Grid
Donna Burnell	Copper Consultancy

Apologies

Kevin Fraser	Essex County Council (ECC)
Emma Goodings	Braintree District Council (Braintree DC)

Distribution

John Pitchford	Suffolk County Council (SCC)
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Ref	Actions	Status	Who
1	Introductions		
	Jim Lewis, Project Manager – Bramford substation, was introduced. He was overseeing all the National Grid and SEESA works on site.	Note	
2	Notes of previous meeting held on 14 November 2013		
	The notes had been published previously.	Note	
2.1	Matters arising <u>Reference 2.1</u> Arrangements for payment under the PPA had been made between Carl Simms and the local authorities. National Grid was not aware of any outstanding accounts. The officers would review all invoices to date and would contact Carl direct if anything was still outstanding. All other actions on the notes had either been completed or were covered by the meeting agenda.	Note Action Note	Officers
3	Status of Bramford to Twinstead (B-T) Connection Project		
3.1	There had not been any changes to the generation projects requiring the new connection since the last meeting. The B-T need case continued to be driven by the requirement to connect East Anglia Four into Bramford substation in April 2022. The new connection was likely to be required in the autumn of 2021, due to constraints on winter outages.	Note	

	Contractually, the connection for Sizewell C was before this date. EDF Energy, however, had stated publicly that the new nuclear plant in Suffolk would follow Hinkley C which was expected to start generating around 2023. It had generally been concluded that Sizewell C would be later than this date.		
4	Update on energy projects in the region		
4.1	<p>East Anglia Offshore Wind Connection EAOW Ltd remained focussed on the projects connecting into Bramford substation (One, Three and Four) and had been granted consent for phase One.</p> <p>Additional switching bays to support the connection of the windfarm beyond Phase One had been installed in Bramford substation.</p> <p>MW asked generally how National Grid recovered monies already spent on connection works for projects which did not come to fruition in the form originally envisaged.</p> <p>National Grid explained that investment made to support contracted connection dates would be considered efficient at the time. Subsequent changes to developers' programmes were beyond National Grid's control therefore investments should be considered fully recoverable.</p>	Note	
4.2	<p>Sizewell C Connection EDF Energy would include National Grid's work to connect the proposed power station within its own DCO application.</p> <p>National Grid was continuing to liaise with EDF Energy to ensure the new connection would be in place when needed.</p>	Note	
4.3	<p>Progress Power The DCO application for the new gas-fired 299 megawatts 'peaking' plant was being examined by the Planning Inspectorate.</p> <p>The outcome of the consent application was expected in July 2015.</p>	Note	
4.4	<p>Galloper Offshore Windfarm Galloper had recently announced that it would not continue to develop the proposed windfarm to the present timescale. They hadn't terminated the connection agreement with National Grid and Galloper had stated publicly that they still intended to position the project to go forward.</p> <p>The National Grid works were mainly in the Leiston substation and due to start next autumn. National Grid would continue to work with Galloper to deliver the works when needed.</p>	Note	
4.5	<p>Overhead line refurbishment works The lines between Bramford and Norwich and Bramford to Sizewell had been identified for reconductoring.</p>	Note	

	The works were likely to be scheduled after the current regulatory period, i.e. after 2021.		
5	Communications and Engagement		
5.1	<p>Newsletter</p> <p>A short newsletter was being prepared to send to local residents to update them on the status of the project and provide information on National Grid's VEX programme in local schools.</p> <p>The officers suggested including information on the works at Bramford substation as well as information on education and skills and careers at National Grid.</p>	Copper	
5.2	<p>VEX schools programme</p> <p>National Grid had delivered the meccano-like sets to four schools in the region: St Helena in Essex and Thomas Gainsborough, East Bergholt High School and Westbourne Academy in Suffolk.</p> <p>Students from all four schools had started to build robots to carry out set tasks with great enthusiasm. Bob Jones, a National Grid engineer, was visiting the schools to help with the project and to talk to students about careers in engineering and National Grid.</p> <p>National Grid had been delighted with the schools' and students' responses to the initiative and was looking forward to seeing the schools compete with their robots in the regional VEX competition in January 2015.</p> <p>The officers suggested National Grid contacted the STEM officers within each authority to identify ways to coordinate the programme with other similar initiatives.</p>	<p>Note</p> <p>Action</p>	Copper
6	Review of external meetings		
6.1	<p>SCC, MSDC and other statutory consultees had met with EAOW on 24 September to discuss how the consent requirements would be discharged.</p> <p>Both EAOW and National Grid would be carrying out construction works in the Bramford area and National Grid agreed to attend a local community forum, if helpful.</p> <p>NW noted that it would be important to keep elected members informed about the works. They would be particularly interested in the landscaping proposals.</p>	Note	
7	Any other business		
7.1	<p>The 10-Year Statement</p> <p>This report which considered a number of different future scenarios had been published by National Grid.</p>	Note	
7.2	The TEC register		

	MW asked why the register did not include details on proposed connection points for EAOW. The National Grid team would discuss with the authors and report back.	Action	SKG
7.1	<p>Visual Impact Provision</p> <p>The recent announcement of the shortlist, which had not included the Dedham Vale, had been received with disappointment in Suffolk.</p> <p>The Suffolk officers, however, had found the report which accompanied the announcement to be accessible and helpful in understanding the shortlisting process.</p> <p>The Stakeholder Advisory Group had recommended that £24 million should be set aside for landscape enhancements. The Dedham Vale Management Group would consider applying for enhancement funding.</p>	Note	
7.2	<p>Elections in May 2015</p> <p>The elections in Suffolk next year would cover parish, and district councillors as well as Members of Parliament.</p>	Note	
8	Date of next meeting		
	The next meeting was provisionally set for late May/early June (after the General Election).	Note	
9	Bramford substation		
9.1	<p>The major civils works had been mainly completed and the landscape planting programme was being rolled out.</p> <p>MSDC asked National Grid to introduce additional planting to overhang the retaining feature, block planting to the residual land area and additional screening to the western boundary. National Grid agreed to review the landscaping plans.</p> <p>Following a safety induction, the officers were accompanied around Bramford substation to see the progress of the GIS construction and landscaping.</p>	<p>Note</p> <p>National Grid</p>	