

Bramford to Twinstead Connection Project

Notes of Meeting with Local Planning Authority officers
Thursday 15 May, 10.00am – 12.30pm

Attendees

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| Michael Wilks | Suffolk County Council (SCC) |
| Nick Ward | Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils (Babergh & Mid Suffolk DCs) |
| Steve Knight Gregson | National Grid |
| Simon Pepper | National Grid (Chair) |
| Donna Burnell | Copper Consultancy |

Apologies

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

Distribution

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| John Pitchford | Suffolk County Council (SCC) |
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| Ref | Actions | Status | Who |
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| 1 | Introductions | | |
| | <p>Steve Knight Gregson was introduced to the local authority officers. His role was to provide an overview across all National Grid projects and business in the East Region.</p> <p>John Pitchford was now Head of Planning at SCC and would not necessarily be able to attend all LPA officer meetings on a routine basis, but still would like to be kept on the distribution list. The National Grid team sent their congratulations to John on his promotion.</p> | Note | |
| 2 | Notes of previous meeting held on 14 November 2013 | | |
| | The notes had been published previously. | Note | |
| 2.1 | Matters arising | | |
| | <p><u>Reference 1.1</u></p> <p>The report on the potential use of T Pylon for the B- T connection would be updated and published when the project resumed.</p> <p>A short section of T Pylon overhead line was to be constructed at the training centre in Eakring and this was expected to provide more detailed technical information on construction methods etc. which would need to be included in the report.</p> <p><u>Reference 4</u></p> <p>Arrangements for payment under the PPA had been made between Carl Simms and Babergh District and the email setting this out would be forwarded to Essex County Council.</p> <p>The action for the legal team to set out the on-going arrangements (post submission) in a letter had since been superseded. It had been agreed by all parties that the PPA would</p> | <p>Note</p> <p>Action</p> <p>Note</p> | Copper |

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| | be discussed again when the project restarted. | | |
| 3 | Status of Bramford to Twinstead (B-T) Connection Project | | |
| | <p>There had been some minor changes to the generation background since the last meeting with no consequential change to the need case for the B-T Connection.</p> <p>An offshore wind power project (Docking Shoal) had terminated agreements and Dudgeon had reduced its connection requirement by 100 megawatts. Kings Lynn had requested to connect an additional 266 megawatts and Progress Power had requested connection for a 299 megawatts 'peaking' plant at Eye.</p> <p>The combined overall impact was a reduction of around 250 megawatts to the tec register in the East Anglia region.</p> <p>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.</p> | Note | |
| 4 | Update on other projects in the region | | |
| 4.1 | <p>East Anglia Offshore Wind Connection</p> <p>EAOW Ltd remained focussed on the projects connecting into Bramford substation (One, Three and Four).</p> <p>They had more work to do before the strategic options for the other projects connecting into Lowestoft and Bacton areas could be discussed in detail.</p> | Note | |
| 4.2 | <p>Sizewell C Connection</p> <p>The contracted date was still shown as 2020 but as EDF had stated publicly that Sizewell would follow the new nuclear power station in Somerset, which was expected to start generating around 2023, it had generally been concluded that Sizewell would be later than this date.</p> <p>National Grid was continuing to liaise with EDF to ensure the new connection would be in place when needed.</p> | Note | |
| 4.3 | <p>Progress Power</p> <p>The DCO application for the new gas-fired 299 megawatts 'peaking plant' had been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and accepted.</p> <p>Without going into detail SCC said it had some concerns about the electrical connection works. These would be discussed through the DCO hearing process.</p> <p>The connection would not change the need case for B-T. The additional capacity had been offset by the reduction in offshore wind connections in the region.</p> <p>A meeting had been arranged for officers to visit the National</p> | Note | |

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| | Grid substation at Braintree. National Grid emphasised that although visits are useful to get an idea of what infrastructure is contained within a substation, it was not possible to make direct comparisons as each substation on the network was designed to meet different requirements, constraints and mitigation opportunities. | | |
| 4.4 | <p>Bramford substation</p> <p>The major civils works had been mainly completed and landscape planting to the north of the site was planned for the planting season in October.</p> <p>Planting to the south of the site was still under discussion and National Grid would provide more information in due course.</p> <p>The officers asked National Grid if the summary paper that described the history of the works at the site could be made available. National Grid agreed.</p> <p>The officers asked National Grid how it planned to communicate with the local residents about the on-going works at the site as they had received a number of comments from local residents and councillors. National Grid agreed to consider how best to do this, including through discussions with East Anglia Offshore Wind.</p> | <p>Note</p> <p>Action</p> <p>Action</p> <p>Action</p> | <p>National Grid</p> <p>National Grid</p> <p>National Grid</p> |
| 4.5 | <p>Overhead line refurbishment works</p> <p><u>Bramford and Norwich (4YM)</u>: The overhead line was programmed to be reconducted no earlier than 2017 as part of the on-going investment programme to refurbish existing infrastructure.</p> <p><u>Sizewell to Bramford (4ZW and 4ZX)</u>: The officers asked whether the existing double set of lines would need reconductoring before Sizewell C came on line. The National Grid team would check with the technical team and let the officers know.</p> <p><u>Twinstead to Pelham (4YL)</u>: A local resident had called to query the status of the reinstatement works. She had been directed to the Essex County Council Highways officer.</p> | <p>Note</p> <p>Action</p> <p>Note</p> | <p>National Grid</p> |
| 5 | Communications and Engagement | | |
| 5.1 | <p>Newsletter</p> <p>A short newsletter was being drafted to send to residents along the preferred route corridor. It would be sent out in June and timed, if possible, to avoid a clash with any updates from EAOW Ltd.</p> <p>It would update residents on the status of the project and let them know about National Grid's proposed schools VEX programme.</p> | Note | |
| 5.2 | <p>Briefings</p> <p>The newsletter would be sent directly to MPs and councillors. National Grid would offer briefings and hoped to meet elected</p> | Note | |

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| | <p>members in the autumn to provide an update on the project.</p> <p>SCC noted the relevant Cabinet Member for Roads, Transport and Planning was now Cllr Graham Newman</p> | | |
| 5.3 | <p>VEX schools programme</p> <p>National Grid had partnered with VEX, an exciting education programme which challenged students between the ages of 14 – 16 years to build a robot from a meccano-like set. National Grid hoped to inspire young people to pursue a career based on STEM subjects.</p> <p>National Grid was offering free VEX Robotics Kits to some of the schools in the local area and would set a challenge to the students to build a robot which could carry out a set task. A member of the project team would liaise with the schools during the winter term and, at the end of term, National Grid would run a fun competition between the participating schools.</p> <p>The officers agreed that this would be a good opportunity for National Grid to work with schools in the consultation area and suggested the team contacted Kevin Roger, the Skills and Policy Manager in Suffolk County Council to coordinate with other STEM programmes in the county.</p> | <p>Note</p> <p>Note</p> <p>Action</p> | Copper |
| 6 | Review of external meetings | | |
| | <p>SCC had met the amenity group coalition to discuss how the scheme would be approached during the pause period.</p> <p>Michael Wilks had become a member of NIPA</p> | Note | |
| 7 | Any other business | | |
| 7.1 | <p>Visual Impact Provision</p> <p>The draft policy had been agreed with the regulator and the Stakeholder Advisory Group had been set up, chaired by Chris Baines.</p> <p>The programme to compare the impact of existing infrastructure in AONBs and National Parks was underway. Decisions on which projects to put forward would be made in 2015 - 2016 and any required consents would be sought in time for construction to start around 2018.</p> <p>The selected mitigation projects would not be NSIPs and consents for cable sealing end compounds would be sought under T&CPA. While a formal EIA would not be required for these projects, National Grid would carry out environmental assessment and describe the outcome in an informal Environmental Report.</p> | Note | |
| 7.2 | <p>SCC Project Officer appointments</p> <p>EDF had agreed to fund a 50% FTE project officer to work on the Sizewell C Project. Katherine Potts had been appointed to the role.</p> | Note | |

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| | SCC, in conjunction with the other affected local authorities, hoped to resource this as a full-time NSIP project manager in due course. | | |
| 8 | Date of next meeting | | |
| | The next officers' meeting provisionally set for Thursday 13th November. | Note | |