

News Release

15 December 2010

National Grid seeks views on its approach to undergrounding cables

National Grid is today (15 December) launching a public consultation into its approach to undergrounding the electricity lines needed to connect new power generation. The company is currently revising its approach to undergrounding and is now asking the public, industry, government, environmental and other organisations for their opinions.

When planning a new transmission connection, National Grid is often asked to consider putting cables underground rather than building overhead lines in order to protect views of local landscapes. However there are many considerations involved with undergrounding owing to its cost, environmental impacts and technical considerations.

So, to find out what people think, National Grid is launching a public consultation which will give them an opportunity to help shape how the company decides when to underground new transmission lines.

Hector Pearson, National Grid stakeholder and policy manager, said: "We last reviewed our undergrounding approach in the early 1990s. With a significant amount of new power generation needing to connect to our network in the coming years, including low carbon generators such as nuclear power and wind farms, we believe that now is a good time to review our approach.

"When planning to connect a new generator to its network, National Grid looks at different methods, including overhead lines, underground cables and subsea cables. As a transmission operator, we need to comply with statutory duties such as building a network that is efficient, coordinated and economic to construct, operate and maintain.

"We need to manage the costs of these projects responsibly as these costs will ultimately be paid for by electricity consumers. However, we also need to consider the impact on the local landscape and communities of what we build.

"We are very keen to hear people's views. Their opinions will play an important part in shaping our approach."

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The consultation, which is launched today (15 December) will run until 16 March 2011. National Grid will consider all feedback received before publishing our revised approach to undergrounding in April. Anyone wishing to contribute can do so by completing the questionnaire on www.nationalgridundergrounding.com.

Anyone with further questions can contact National Grid by:

- Calling the project information number: 0800 319 6175
- Sending an email to: info@undergroundingconsultation.com
- Writing to: National Grid Undergrounding Consultation, Freepost NAT3717, London SE1 2BR

-Ends-

For further media information only, contact:

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Notes to Editors:

National Grid

National Grid is an international electricity and gas company and one of the largest investor-owned energy companies in the world. We play a vital role in delivering gas and electricity to millions of people across Great Britain and northeastern US in an efficient, reliable and safe manner. We believe the power of action can play a major role in safeguarding our global environment for future generations and tackling the effects of climate change, providing all our customers with the highest standards of service through network investment and through our talented, diverse workforce.

National Grid owns the high-voltage electricity transmission network in England and Wales and operates the system across Great Britain. It also owns and operates the high pressure gas transmission system in Britain and its distribution business delivers gas to 11 million homes and businesses.

National Grid manages the National Gas Emergency Service freephone line 0800 111 999*.

***All calls are recorded and may be monitored.**

www.nationalgrid.com