

## **North West Coast Connections - National Grid Proposal Update**

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### **Summary and Recommendation:**

This report provides a summary and update on the current issues relating to National Grid proposal to provide power line connections to nuclear new build facilities in Copeland to connect to proposed future Nuclear Power Generator.

Recommendation:  
That the contents of the report are noted

## **1. Introduction**

The National Grid's North West Coast Connections project aims to distribute power generated at the proposed new nuclear power station facilities to be constructed on a site adjoining the current Sellafield site and the associated supporting infrastructure required at Heysham, to the wider UK energy market via the provision of new and/or upgraded transmission cables.

Subject to the outcome of an assessment of route options the project could impact on local authorities across Lancashire and Cumbria, including the National Park Authority.

Joint working arrangements across the two counties, with Cumbria County Council acting as accountable body for the project will have significant resource implications for those local planning authorities through which the route might pass. Therefore the National Grid agreed to provide adequate resources to local authorities through a formal Planning Performance Agreement (PPA).

## **2. National Grid and the Planning Performance Agreement**

The local authorities and the National Grid agreed that a Planning Performance Agreement (PPA) for the North West Coast Connection Project was needed and we have been working

together closely to form an agreement on what work packages should be included and financed through the PPA.

The PPA has now been drawn up and is in the final draft stage. The Council has reviewed the final draft and has provided comments and suggested amendments to Cumbria County Council and aim to have an adopted PPA in place by end of November.

### **3. National Grid – North West Coast Connections (NWCC) project**

Discussions between National Grid and Cumbria and Lancashire local authorities continue regarding National Grid proposals for enhancing the grid route through Cumbria with the focus being the mechanism for consulting with the community regarding potential route options.

### **4. An Overview of the Strategic Route Options**

The process is currently at stage one (refer to appendix A), strategic options. This involves choosing a broad corridor within which a route of pylons or underground cables can be located. There are currently 6 options under consideration. The 6 alternative routing options were chosen based on a technically acceptable and feasible means of connecting between two points in a power system. In choosing the out lined routes the following factors were taken into consideration:

- Environment
- Energy, resource use, waste
- Community / economy
- Safety
- Technical and financial issues

As a result of this process the following 6 routes have been identified see appendix B:

**Option 1** (Twin South) Two overland Double – Circuits south from sellafield

**Option 2** (Twin South) Two Sub-sea Double Circuits South from Sellafield

**Option 3** (Cumbria Ring) One Double-Circuit North from Sellafield and One overland Double-Circuit South from Sellafield

**Option 4** (Cumbria Ring) One Double-Circuit North from Sellafield and One Sub-sea Double Circuit South from Sellafield

**Option 5** (Twin North) Two Double- Circuits North from Sellafield and One Double-Circuit South from Harker

**Option 6** (Twin North): Two Double-Circuits north from Sellafield, re-building the Northeast 275KV network at 400Kv.

A further option which was a hybrid of overland and subsea options has been removed as it is considered to be covered already by the options outlined above and therefore was duplicating the process.

## **5. Stakeholder Reference Group Workshop**

A stakeholder reference group is a group of all relevant participants within the 6 routes that the new grid might take, including all affected Local Authorities, County Councils, District Councils and special interest groups, such as Natural England, Morecambe Bay Partnership etc.

The meeting was held on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2011 the focus was on the Scoping of the Strategic Options Appraisal (SOA) of the 6 options outlined above.

The National Grid's Strategic Options consultation with stakeholders will begin in the first week of January 2012 and run for 10 weeks. We will need to respond within this time therefore there will be a report to Executive in February.

The National Grid will then review the responses from all the stakeholders on the 6 Strategic Options after July and prepare a short report summarising the feedback and any changes to the scope which result from the consultation.

The Statement Of Community Consultation (SOCC) is a formal part of the development consent process operated by the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC). The Council is working with the National Grid to develop the Consultation Strategy / SOCC to ensure that local constituents are kept fully informed and that they are consulted at each stage of the process.

The National Grid have advised that they are unable to produce project specific SOCC until the route corridor stage is reached.

Officer involvement and assistance in helping them with the SOCC will be funded through the PPA.

## **6. Way Forward**

- There will be a presentation on the Strategic Route Options to Members in December or January by representative from National Grid.
- A report to Executive in December will Outline the Strategic Route Options and discuss the change in governance arrangements.
- A further report to Executive in February seeking approval to the Councils response to the Strategic Route Options Consultation.

## **7. List of Appendices –**

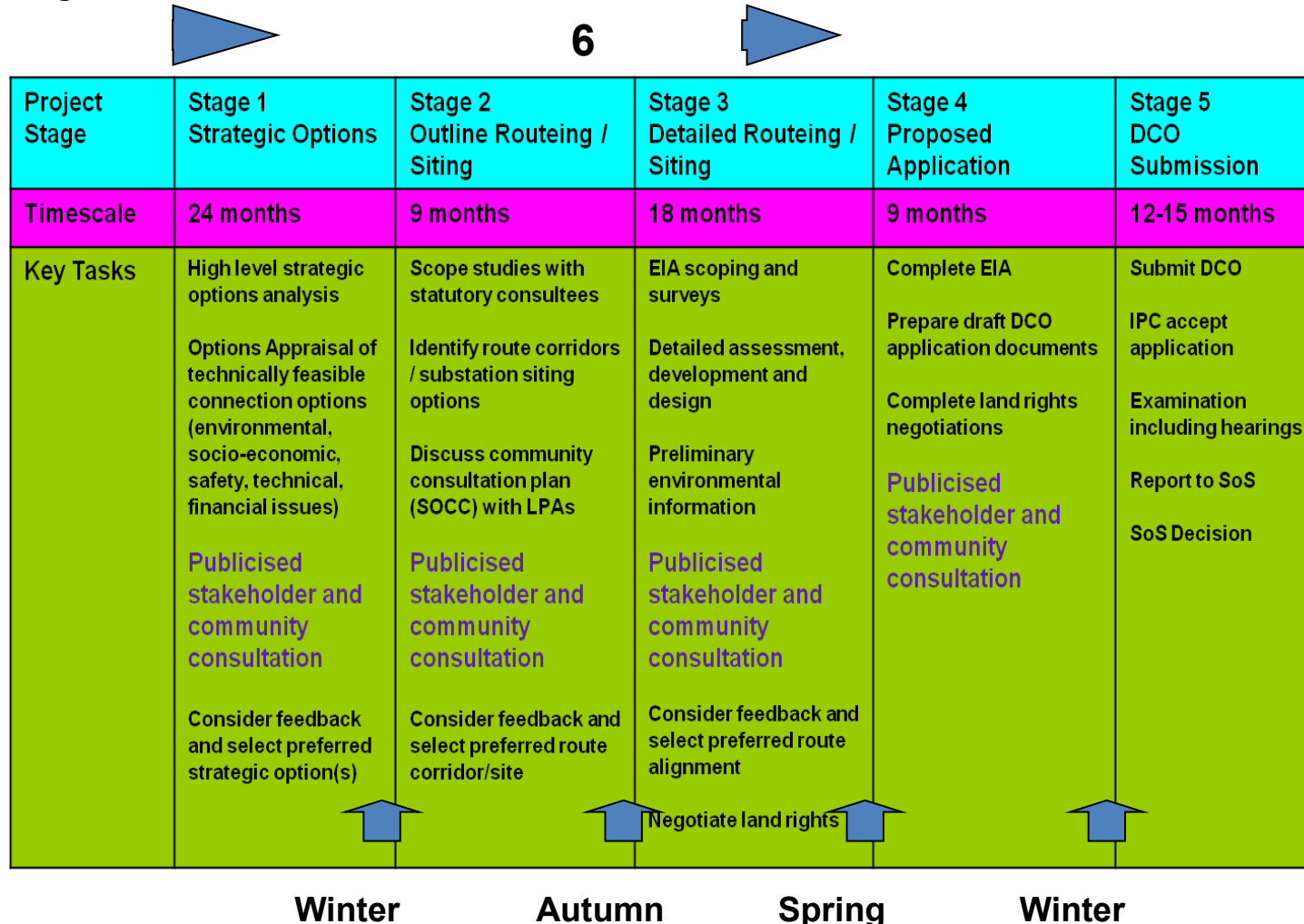
**Appendix A** – National Grid North West Coast Connections (NWCC) Project

**Appendix B** – Strategic Route Options - North West Coast Connections (NWCC) Project.

## **8. Consultees**

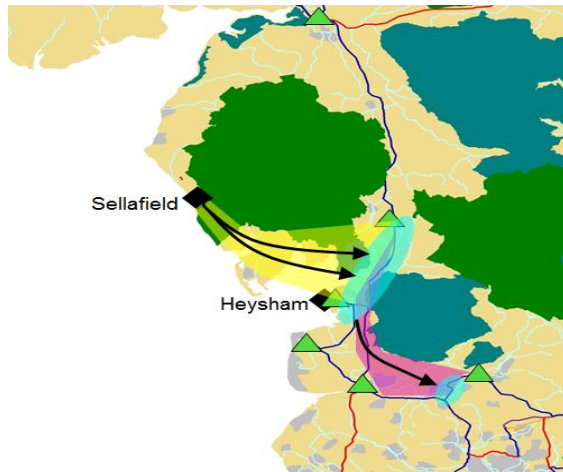
## Appendix A - National Grid – North West Coast Connections (NWCC) project

### Project Programme

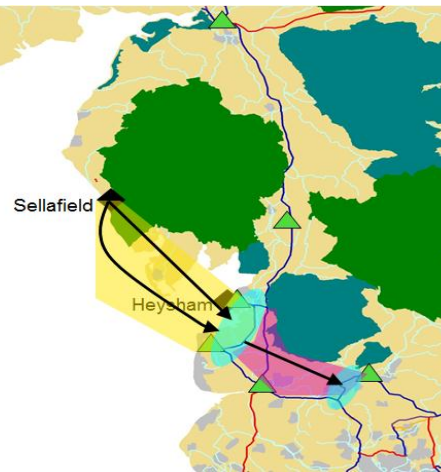


## Appendix B – Strategic Route Options North West Coast Connections (NWCC) project

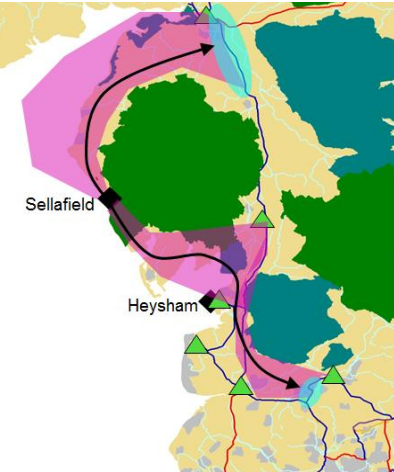
Option 1: Twin South



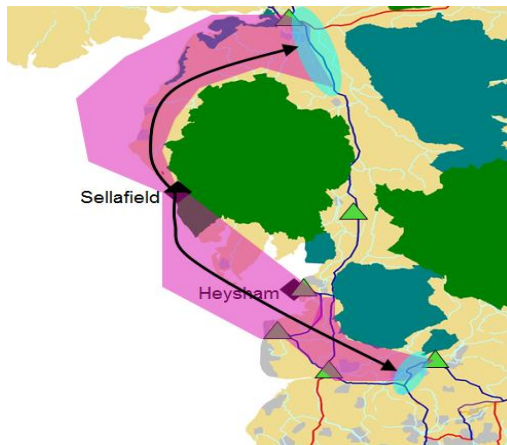
Options 2: Twin South



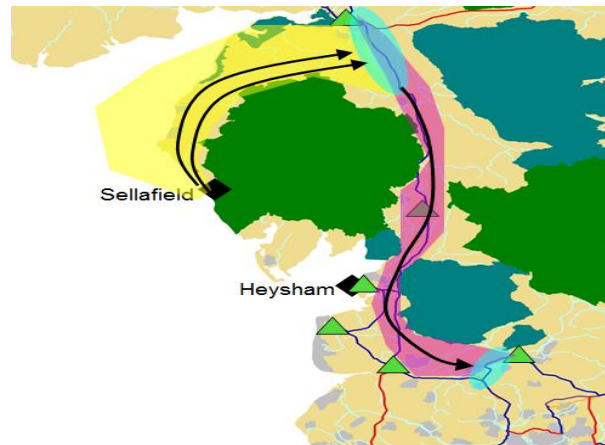
Option 3: Cumbria Ring



Option 4 Cumbria Ring



Option 5 Twin North



Option 6 Twin North

