



NEWSLETTER

January 2017

GOOD RESPONSE

By the end of the final consultation on 6 January National Grid had received 8,000 responses. That's a great result compared with the 2014 consultation when there were around 1,200 responses. It reflects the efforts of the many people who raised awareness in their communities, ran advice sessions, canvassed, printed and delivered leaflets, put up posters and banners and helped and encouraged neighbours, family and friends to respond. Well done to everyone who responded and helped in any way.

MP SUPPORT

Just after National Grid's final consultation announcement in late October, we held a successful public meeting in the Victory Hall, Broughton, with John Woodcock MP. The hall was packed with around 250 people. The MP's opening address was followed by a presentation from PWP then a question and answer session with a panel including representatives from the Friends of the Lake District and the Parish Councils Co-ordination Group (PCCG). In closing the meeting, John Woodcock pledged his strong support and outlined a five-point plan to take the 'no pylons' campaign forward.



IN THE NEWS

There was a huge surge in media interest as the campaign gathered pace and the 6 January deadline drew near. We were kept busy supplying information and images to journalists, arranging interviews and photography and liaising with film crews. Since it formed in February 2015, PWP has generated the following items of media coverage:



- Broadcast (TV/radio) - 13
- National print - 13
- Local/regional print - 25
- Online - 33

.....and we may not have captured everything. To see some of the latest top-quality coverage click [here](#).

BROUGHTON BUSINESS BACKING



PWP is grateful for the massive support from textbook publisher CGP, a major employer in Broughton and the surrounding area. CGP has provided generous financial and practical support, including producing and placing a series of full-page adverts in the local and national press either side of Christmas.

NUGEN DELAY

We've heard that Nugen, the company planning to build the Moorside power station, has had to delay submitting its planning application until the end of 2017. As both this and the NWCC project were running in parallel, it could signal a delay in National Grid submitting its plan too. At present the company denies this.



POWER WITHOUT PYLONS RESPONSE

PWP committee members studied the NWCC proposal for the southern section and worked together to produce a response on behalf of the 600 supporters on the group's database. The 20-page response rejected proposals to overground the connection around the Duddon Estuary and called for serious consideration to be given to the alternatives, along with transparent and robust costings.



ELF HELP

In putting together its submission PWP had valuable advice and guidance from registered UK charity the Environmental Law Foundation. We have become a community group member of ELF and look forward to their support in fighting National Grid's plans at a later stage if needed.

NEW YEAR'S DAY WALK



Several hundred 'no pylons' protesters met for a rally in Kirkby on New Year's Day at

John Woodcock's initiative. The MP and his two young daughters set out with a large group from Broughton to walk along part of the proposed pylon route. Another group walked along the beach from Askam. Organised by the MP's office with support from PWP, the event served to highlight the pylons issue and urge individuals to respond to the consultation by the deadline.



WHAT HAPPENS NOW

A lengthy process still needs to take place before final decisions are made. Here's a summary of what now happens and roughly when:

Timeline

- National Grid reviews consultation feedback—now
- National Grid applies to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) for a Development Consent Order (DCO)—by end 2017, summer 2017 at the earliest
- PINS decides if application can proceed— up to 28 days after plan submitted
- PINS examines the application and opens a planning enquiry (interested parties can register and submit their views) — around 12 months
- PINS makes recommendation to Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy— up to 3 months after end of examination
- Secretary of State makes final decision— up to 3 months after referral by PINS
- If approved construction starts on the new connection— 2019

NOTE: The NWCC project is what's known as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). This means it has to follow the procedure above.

OFGEM STANCE

Ofgem, the regulatory body that works in the interest of consumers, is now consulting on the North West Coast Connections project. It is assessing whether there is a technical need for the project, how National Grid has narrowed down the option it is taking forward, and whether the project—or sections of it—are suitable for competitive tender. The associated documents make for interesting reading. Ofgem is challenging the high cost National Grid gave for the Kirksanton/Rossall HVAC (partial offshore) option and is concerned about the potential for cost over-run on a Morecambe Bay tunnel. Find out more [here](#).



IMPORTANT MEETINGS

Cumbria County Council and the Lake District National Park Authority are meeting with Ofgem on 30 January.

The meeting between the PCCG and PINS scheduled for 31 January has been postponed, as the key contact is leaving PINS. It is likely to be rescheduled for March/April.

NEXT STEPS FOR PWP



National Grid needs to be confident its application will be approved. The company will have to demonstrate to PINS that it has consulted fully and fairly, properly considered the options and taken account of feedback from the public and statutory consultees.

PWP's first priority is to try and influence National Grid before it submits a DCO application. During the coming months we'll be working with the Lake District National Park Authority, Friends of the Lake District, other stakeholders and allies to put pressure on National Grid to abandon its giant pylon plans.

If National Grid persists with pylon proposals, PWP will make a representation to the planning enquiry, objecting to this.

PYLON PROTEST PICTURES

Pylon protesters found different ways of getting the message across, by creating their own displays and placing them strategically around the Duddon Estuary.....



Broughton



Askam



Kirkby



Foxfield

LANDSCAPE EXPERTISE

ELF has put us in touch with a landscape architect who can independently and professionally assess the scale of damage National



Grid's current proposals will cause to landscapes. He will be making an initial visit to the Duddon Estuary area soon.



NOT HAD YOUR SAY YET?

Although the consultation has finished, it has been suggested that writing to National Grid could still be worthwhile. As they review the feedback and take stock of the massive anti-pylon protest, we believe letters urging the company to reconsider off-shore options would send a clear message that it cannot ignore.

You could also write to Cumbria County Council and South Lakeland District Council or Copeland Borough Council, as appropriate.

