

*stephen  
pne 2010*

Ciara Whelehan  
Planning Policy and Development  
London Borough of Haringey Council  
639 High Road  
Tottenham  
N17 8BD

~~Bethany Tucker~~  
Land and Development Team  
Senior Policy Planner  
bethany.tucker@uk.ngrid.com  
Direct tel +44 (0)1926 654165  
Direct fax +44 (0)1926 656574

www.nationalgrid.com

24 June 2010

Dear Ms Whelehan

**London Borough of Haringey  
Core Strategy and Site Allocations**

Thank you for your email dated 11<sup>th</sup> May 2010 regarding the above. Having reviewed the documents we would like to make the following general and specific comments and also take this opportunity to emphasise the role of National Grid and to highlight areas and issues where we feel consultation with National Grid would be appropriate in future Development Plan Documents (DPDs).

**Overview – National Grid**

National Grid is a leading international energy infrastructure business. In the UK National Grid's business includes electricity and gas transmission networks and gas distribution networks as described below.

Electricity Transmission

National Grid, as the holder of a licence to transmit electricity under the Electricity Act 1989, has a statutory duty to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical transmission system of electricity and to facilitate competition in the supply and generation of electricity.

National Grid operates the national electricity transmission network across Great Britain and owns and maintains the network in England and Wales, providing electricity supplies from generating stations to local distribution companies. We do not distribute electricity to individual premises ourselves, but our role in the wholesale market is key to ensuring a reliable and quality supply to all. National Grid's high voltage electricity system, which operates at 400,000 and 275,000 volts, is made up of approximately 22,000 pylons with an overhead line route length of 4,500 miles, 420 miles of underground cable and 337 substations. Separate regional companies own and operate the electricity distribution networks that comprise overhead lines and cables at 132,000 volts and below. It is the role of these local distribution companies to distribute electricity to homes and businesses.

To facilitate competition in the supply and generation of electricity, National Grid must offer a connection to any proposed generator, major industry or distribution network operator who wishes to generate electricity or requires a high voltage electricity supply. Often proposals for new electricity projects involve transmission reinforcements remote from the generating site, such as new overhead lines or new development at substations. If there are significant demand increases across a local distribution electricity network area then the local network distribution operator may seek reinforcements at an existing substation or a new grid supply point. In addition National Grid may undertake development works at its existing substations to meet changing patterns of generation and supply.

## Gas Transmission

National Grid owns and operates the high pressure gas transmission system in England, Scotland and Wales that consists of approximately 4,300 miles of pipelines and 26 compressor stations connecting to 8 distribution networks. National Grid has a duty to develop and maintain an efficient co-ordinated and economical transmission system for the conveyance of gas and respond to requests for new gas supplies in certain circumstances.

New gas transmission infrastructure developments (pipelines and associated installations) are periodically required to meet increases in demand and changes in patterns of supply. Developments to our network are as a result of specific connection requests e.g. power stations, and requests for additional capacity on our network from gas shippers. Generally network developments to provide supplies to the local gas distribution network are as a result of overall demand growth in a region rather than site specific developments.

## Gas Distribution

National Grid also owns and operates approximately 82,000 miles of lower-pressure distribution gas mains in the north west of England, the west Midlands, east of England and north London – almost half of Britain's gas distribution network, delivering gas to around 11 million homes, offices and factories. National Grid does not supply gas, but provides the networks through which it flows. Reinforcements and developments of our local distribution network generally are as a result of overall demand growth in a region rather than site specific developments. A competitive market operates for the connection of new developments.

## **National Grid and Local Development Plan Documents**

The Energy White Paper makes clear that UK energy systems will undergo a significant change over the next 20 years. To meet the goals of the white paper it will be necessary to revise and update much of the UK's energy infrastructure during this period. There will be a requirement for:

- An expansion of national infrastructure (e.g. overhead power lines, underground cables, extending substations, new gas pipelines and associated installations).
- New forms of infrastructure (e.g. smaller scale distributed generation, gas storage sites).

Our gas and electricity infrastructure is sited across the country and many stakeholders and communities have an interest in our activities. We believe our long-term success is based on having a constructive and sustainable relationship with our stakeholders. Our transmission pipelines and overhead lines were originally routed in consultation with local planning authorities and designed to avoid major development areas but since installation much development may have taken place near our routes.

We therefore wish to be involved in the preparation, alteration and review of Development Plan Documents (DPDs) which may affect our assets including policies and plans relating to the following issues:

- Any policies relating to overhead transmission lines, underground cables or gas pipeline installations
- Site specific allocations/land use policies affecting sites crossed by overhead lines, underground cables or gas transmission pipelines
- Land use policies/development proposed adjacent to existing high voltage electricity substation sites and gas above ground installations
- Any policies relating to the diverting or undergrounding of overhead transmission lines
- Other policies relating to infrastructure or utility provision
- Policies relating to development in the countryside
- Landscape policies
- Waste and mineral plans

In addition, we also want to be consulted by developers and local authorities on planning applications, which may affect our assets and are happy to provide pre-application advice. Our aim in this is to ensure that the safe and secure transportation of electricity and gas is not compromised.

### **National Grid infrastructure within the London Borough of Haringey's administrative area**

#### Electricity Transmission

National Grid's high voltage electricity overhead transmission lines / underground cables within Haringey Council's administrative area that form an essential part of the electricity transmission network in England and Wales include the following:

- 275,000v and 400,000v underground cables cross the Borough from St Johns Wood substation to Tottenham substation in Haringey
- VC line 275,000-volt route from Tottenham substation to Hackney substation

The following substations are also located within the administrative area of Haringey Council:

- Tottenham substation - 275kV

National Grid has provided information in relation to electricity transmission assets via the following internet link:

<http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/LandandDevelopment/DDC/GasElectricNW>

#### Gas Transmission

National Grid has no gas transmission assets located within the administrative area of Haringey Council.

#### Gas Distribution

National Grid Gas Distribution owns and operates the local gas distribution network in the Haringey area. If you require site specific advice relating to our local gas distribution network then information should be sought from:

National Grid Plant Protection  
National Grid, Block 1, Floor 2  
Brick Kiln Street  
Hinckley  
LE10 0NA  
plantprotection@uk.ngrid.com

#### **Specific Comments**

The following areas identified in the Core Strategy Key Diagram for accommodating development, are crossed by National Grid's high voltage underground electricity transmission cables:

- Tottenham Hale – Area of Change / Growth Area
- Tottenham High Road / Bruce Grove – Area of Change
- Seven Sisters – Area of Change

In addition, the Site Allocations consultation document identifies the following sites which are crossed by, or located within close proximity to National Grid's high voltage underground electricity transmission cables:

- St Ann's Hospital, N15
- Omega Works, Hermitage Road, N15

4/12.1  
478

- Lawrence Road, N17
- Marsh Lane, N15

Our underground cables are protected by renewable or permanent agreements with landowners or have been laid in the public highway under our licence. These grant us legal rights that enable us to achieve efficient and reliable operation, maintenance, repair and refurbishment of our electricity transmission network. Hence we require that no permanent structures are built over or under cables or within the zone specified in the agreement, materials or soil are not stacked or stored on top of the cable route or its joint bays and that unrestricted and safe access to any of our cable(s) must be maintained at all times.

The information supplied is given in good faith and only as a guide to the location of our underground cables. The accuracy of this information cannot be guaranteed. The physical presence of such cables may also be evident from physical protection measures such as ducts or concrete protection tiles. The person(s) responsible for planning, supervising and carrying out work in proximity to our cable(s) shall be liable to us, as cable(s) owner, as well as to any third party who may be affected in any way by any loss or damage resulting from their failure to locate and avoid any damage to such a cable(s).

The relevant guidance in relation to working safely near to existing underground cables is contained within the Health and Safety Executive's ([www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)) Guidance HS(G)47 "Avoiding Danger From Underground Services" and all relevant site staff should make sure that they are both aware of and understand this guidance.

Our cables are normally buried to a depth of 1.1 metres or more below ground and cable profile drawings showing further details along the route of the particular cable can be obtained via the Plant Protection Team. Cables installed in cable tunnels, deeper underground, whilst less likely to be affected by surface or shallow works may be affected by activities such as piling. Ground cover above our cables should not be reduced or increased.

If a landscaping scheme is proposed as part of the works, we request that no trees and shrubs are planted either directly above or within 3 metres of the existing underground cable, as ultimately the roots may grow to cause damage to the cable. The relocation of existing underground cables is not normally feasible on grounds of cost, operation and maintenance and environmental impact and we believe that successful development can take place in their vicinity.

### **Further Advice**

National Grid is happy to provide advice and guidance to the Council concerning our networks. If we can be of any assistance to you in providing informal comments in confidence during your policy development, please do not hesitate to contact us. In addition the following publications are available from our web site or by contacting the team below:

- National Grid's commitments when undertaking works in the UK – Our stakeholder, community and amenity policy
- Specification for Safe Working in the Vicinity of National Grid High Pressure Gas Pipelines and Associated Installations – Requirements for Third Parties
- A sense of place – Design guidelines for development near high voltage overhead lines

Please remember to consult National Grid on any Development Plan Document (DPD) or site-specific proposals that could affect our infrastructure. We would be grateful if you could add our details shown below to your consultation database:

National Grid  
Land & Development Stakeholder and Policy Manager  
Land & Development Team  
National Grid House  
Warwick Technology Park  
Gallows Hill

Warwick  
CV34 6DA

Tel: 0800 688 588  
[www.nationalgrid.com/uk/landanddevelopment](http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/landanddevelopment)

I hope the above information is useful. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

[via email]

**Bethany Tucker**  
**Land and Development Team**  
**Senior Policy Planner**

e . \* \*

