Keeping the lights on means difficult decisions about building on our landscape, so one of the key challenges we face is working out how we can reduce the visual effect of what we build. To help meet this challenge we are pleased to include the new T-pylon in this project – a first for the UK.

The T-pylon has come a long way since winning an international design competition organised by the Royal Institute of British Architects, the Department of Energy and Climate Change and National Grid in 2011. Its competition success was down to simple construction and, standing a third shorter than traditional pylons, having the potential for less visual impact.

Tell us what you think

Our environmental team has assessed where along the connection the T-pylon could offer a benefit over the traditional lattice pylon and the results have helped shape the current plans.

We would now like to know what you think about it and all the other elements that make up the project. Consultation runs from Tuesday 3 September 2013 until Tuesday 29 October 2013. We will take your views into consideration before submitting the application to the Planning Inspectorate in early 2014.

This Project News introduces the project and tells you how you can get involved. You can find more information, view an interactive map and see videos of the route at www.hinkleyconnection.co.uk.

Why is a new connection needed?

Over the next 10 years a quarter of the power stations the UK relies on to heat and light our homes and businesses will close. These need to be replaced and it is our role to connect the new generators to the electricity transmission network.

In the South West, EDF Energy already has consent to build a new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point, and there are proposals for a number of other generators including a new gas-fired power station at Seabank and an offshore wind farm in the Bristol Channel.

To join these new sources of energy to homes and businesses safely and affordably we are proposing a new high voltage electricity connection between Bridgwater in Somerset and Seabank near Avonmouth. We would like to know what you think about the proposed new connection.

To see an overview map of the proposals you can unfold this newsletter. You can also visit one of our information hubs to experience a computer model of the proposed connection. More details can be found inside this newsletter.
The Hinkley Point C Connection project is a proposed new high voltage electricity connection between Bridgwater in Somerset and Seabank near Avonmouth. In November 2012, we announced a route for the new connection based on almost four years of listening carefully to local people, groups and organisations and balancing their views with Government guidance, legislation and the technical demands of the project.

We are proposing to remove 65 kilometres (40 miles) of existing 132,000 volt overhead line between Bridgwater and Avonmouth substations and put up 46.6 kilometres (29 miles) of 400,000 volt overhead line. Over eight kilometres (five miles) of the new connection would be placed underground through and either side of the Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), leaving this part of the Mendip Hills free from pylons for the first time in more than 40 years. A further eight kilometres (five miles) of existing 132,000 volt overhead line from Nailsea to Portishead substation would also be put underground.

Overall, there would be around 90 fewer pylons, but the new pylons would be carrying more electricity and would therefore be larger than the existing ones. We are introducing the shorter T-pylon to help address this. Our environmental team has compared the effects of the traditional lattice and T-pylon designs and for the majority of the route we believe that the T-pylon has less impact. In some circumstances we believe traditional lattice pylons are, on balance, a better option, for example around Bridgwater where steel lattice pylons are already in the landscape.

As our proposals would remove the existing 132,000 volt overhead line between Bridgwater and Avonmouth substations, we would need to build a new substation at Sandford and reconfigure the local electricity network in North Somerset. This would ensure the power supply to Weston-super-Mare remains secure. We also need to reconfigure the pylons at Hinkley Point to connect EDF Energy’s proposed new nuclear power station.

Also, as a result of the extra electricity being generated in the South West, South Wales and Gloucestershire, we had to look at options for reinforcing the 400,000 volt electricity network. Therefore at Aust, we are proposing to build a new substation on land that we own.

To see an overview map of the proposals you can unfold this newsletter. You can also visit www.hinkleyconnection.co.uk to view an interactive map.

Having your say

If you are happy with what we propose, or if you want to see something change, please tell us why so that we can take this into account along with our technical and environmental obligations. Your response should consider the following areas:
- the route of the overhead lines
- the design of the pylons (for example T-pylon or steel lattice) and where they should go
- the route of the underground cables and layout of the cable sealing ends (a compound that joins an overhead power line to underground cables)
- the layout of the substations
- the proposed construction and operation arrangements.

You can also tell us what you think about the information we have in our report on the environment and the ways we are suggesting to reduce the effect of our plans. This information can be found in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report.

Tell us what you think by filling in a feedback form on the project website www.hinkleyconnection.co.uk. Visit us at our information hubs and public exhibitions to find out more. See the ‘Get involved’ section on the next page for more details.
[Get involved]

There are many ways you can get involved with the consultation, ask questions and view the plans.

**www.hinkleyconnection.co.uk** – Visit the project website to view videos of the proposals and use the interactive map to see where the connection would go. You can also submit your feedback online and download all the reports and plans.

**Information hubs** – Come to one of our information hubs to view paper copies of all reports and plans, as well as to experience the computer model of the connection. Staff will be on hand to help you find the information you want and you can pick up an Overview Report, Feedback Form and a DVD containing all the reports and plans.

**Exhibitions and public question and answer sessions** – Your opportunity to view the proposals, meet the project team and ask questions. You can also pick up an Overview Report, Feedback Form and a DVD containing all the reports and plans.

**Local libraries and council head offices** – The main reports and plans can be viewed at your local library and council head office.

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### North Somerset Council area

#### Information hub

- **13 Colliers Walk**, Nailsea, BS48 1RG  
  Mon to Fri 11am to 4pm, Sat 10am to 2pm

#### Information point

- **Winscombe Community Centre**, Winscombe, BS25 1JA  
  Please visit the project website or call 0800 377 7347 for details

- **Portishead New Library**, Portishead, BS20 7AL  
  Tue, Fri 9:30am to 5pm  
  Thu 10am to 7pm, Sat 9:30am to 4pm, Sun 10:30am to 2:30pm

- **Yatton Library**, Yatton, BS49 4HU  
  Mon, Tue, Fri 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm, Thu 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 7pm, Sat 9:30am to 12:30pm

#### Exhibitions and public question and answer sessions

- **Nailsea Methodist Church**, Nailsea, BS48 2DS  
  Sat 14 September  
  Exhibition: 9:30am to 2:30pm  
  Q&A: 3pm to 4:30pm

- **Banwell Village Hall**, Banwell, BS29 6BA  
  Tue 17 September  
  Exhibition: 2:30pm to 6pm  
  Q&A: 7pm to 8:30pm

- **Portbury Village Hall**, Portbury, BS20 7TW  
  Wed 25 September  
  Exhibition: 10am to 6pm  
  Q&A: 7pm to 8:30pm

#### Consultation vehicle

- **Waitrose**, Harbour Road, Portishead, BS20 7DE  
  Mon 30 September  
  8am to 4:30pm

- **ASDA**, Phillips Road, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 3UZ  
  Wed 2 October  
  8am to 4:30pm

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### West Somerset Council or Sedgemoor District Council areas

#### Information hub

- **7 Fore Street**, Bridgwater, TA6 3NF  
  Mon to Fri 12noon to 5pm, Sat 10am to 2pm

#### Information point

- **Mark Village Hall**, Mark, Somerset, TA9 4NY  
  Please visit the project website or call 0800 377 7347 for details

- **Woolavington Village Hall**, Woolavington, TA7 8DY  
  Please visit the project website or call 0800 377 7347 for details

- **Stogursey Victory Hall**, Stogursey, Bridgwater, TA5 1RN  
  Please visit the project website or call 0800 377 7347 for details

#### Exhibitions and public question and answer sessions

- **Westfield United Reformed Church**, West Street, Bridgwater, TA6 7EU  
  Thu 19 September  
  Exhibition: 10am to 6pm  
  Q&A - 7pm to 8:30pm

- **Mark Village Hall**, Mark, TA9 4NY  
  Sat 21 September  
  Exhibition: 9:30am to 2:30pm  
  Q&A: 3pm to 4:30pm

- **Stogursey Victory Hall**, Stogursey, TA5 1RN  
  Tue 8 October  
  Exhibition: 5pm to 7pm  
  Q&A: 7pm to 8pm

#### Consultation vehicle

- **Morrison**, The Broadway, Bridgwater, TA6 3LN  
  Tue 1 October  
  8am to 4:30pm

- **Morrison**, Pier Street, Burnham-on-Sea, TA8 1BT  
  Thu 3 October  
  9:30am to 4pm

- **Bridgwater College**, Bath Road, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 4PZ  
  Wed 9 October  
  9:30am to 4pm

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### Bristol City area

#### Information hub

- **Imperial Chambers**, Gloucester Road, Avonmouth, BS11 9AG  
  Mon to Fri 12noon to 5pm  
  Sat 10am to 2pm

#### Exhibition and public question and answer session

- **St Andrew's Church Hall**, Avonmouth Road, Avonmouth, BS11 9FE  
  Wed 18 September  
  Exhibition: 10am to 6pm  
  Q&A: 7pm to 8:30pm

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### South Gloucestershire Council area

#### Information point

- **Aust Village Hall**, Main Road, Aust, BS35 4AX  
  Please visit the project website or call 0800 377 7347 for details

#### Exhibition and public question and answer session

- **Aust Village Hall**, Main Road, Aust, BS35 4AX  
  Wed 9 October  
  Exhibition: 5pm to 7pm  
  Q&A: 7pm to 8pm
What happens next?

Following the consultation we will review the proposals in light of your comments and make any final adjustments. We will also use this time to complete the environmental studies and technical assessments.

In early 2014 we plan to submit the application to the Planning Inspectorate. It will include a report on the consultation and how we have taken your views into account.

What happens once the application has been submitted?

Once the application has been submitted the Planning Inspectorate has 28 days to decide if our consultation has been adequate and whether the application should be accepted for formal examination.

If the application is accepted we will advertise, for example in local newspapers, and tell you how to register your interest to the Planning Inspectorate. Registering your interest will allow you to express your views at the appropriate time and ensure you are kept informed.

A meeting will take place to explain the timetable for the six month formal examination period that will follow.

The Secretary of State will then have a further three months to make a decision.

After the examination period has ended the Planning Inspectorate has three months to make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change as to whether or not to grant permission for the new connection.

During the examination the Planning Inspectorate will ask for the opinions of people who have registered an interest and may invite those who have registered to speak at any public hearings.

More information

To explain the proposals we have prepared a series of plans and reports. These are split into five volumes.

**Volume 1: A guide to the consultation**

This section includes the plain English documents we have produced to explain the proposals. It includes this project newsletter, the Overview Report, the Feedback Form and a Document Navigation Leaflet. We suggest you read the documents in this volume first.

**Volume 2: Preliminary Environmental Information Report**

This report gives the environmental information we have gathered so far on the project and on which we have based our decisions. The report is split into various themes such as landscape, visual effects and traffic and transport.

**Volume 3: Plans**

These show what work we propose to undertake and where. There are nine different types of plan each showing a different element of the project. A full list of the plan types can be found in the Document Navigation Leaflet and Overview Report.

**Volume 4: Draft Development Consent Order**

In order to build the proposed connection we need consent from the Government. The Draft Development Consent Order details the legal powers for which we are seeking consent. It contains a list of all the work we propose to do and a series of ‘Requirements’, similar to planning conditions, which set out our various obligations if consent is granted. A Draft Explanatory Memorandum explains the purpose of the Draft Development Consent Order.

**Volume 5: Other documents**

This includes the Pylon Design Options Report which explains how we considered the different pylon designs available to the project. To keep the electricity flowing in North Somerset we need to make changes to the low voltage local electricity network owned by Western Power Distribution (WPD). A series of reports and assessments in this volume give a background to these plans.

A Document Navigation Leaflet provides a more detailed guide to the content of each volume.

This can be found on the project website www.hinkleyconnection.co.uk or picked up at an event or information location. You can visit one of our information hubs to view a paper copy of the documents. Details are in the ‘Get involved’ section.

Contact us

Visit our project website: www.hinkleyconnection.co.uk
Call our freephone number: 0800 377 7347
Send an email to: hinkleyconnection@nationalgrid.com
Write to our freepost address at: Freepost H POINT CONNECTION
National Grid Hinkley Point C Connection Project

@NG_Hinkley
Proposed Infrastructure

- New 400,000 volt overhead line
- New 400,000 volt overhead line (Option B)
- New 132,000 volt overhead line
- New 400,000 volt T-pylon
- New 400,000 volt T-pylon (Option B)
- New 132,000 volt lattice pylon
- New 132,000 volt wood pole
- New 400,000 volt underground cables
- New 132,000 volt underground cables
- New 400,000 volt cable sealing end
- Existing substation

Existing Infrastructure

- Existing 400,000 volt overhead line
- Existing 275,000 volt overhead line
- Existing 132,000 volt overhead line to be removed
- Existing 275,000 volt overhead line to be removed
- Existing 132,000 volt overhead line to be removed
- Existing substation
- Existing cable sealing end

Visit our information hubs to experience the computer model of the connection.

Read our Overview Report to find out more about the project in your area.