

John Wright
Minerals and Waste Planning
Environment and Heritage Services
Community Services Department
Leicestershire County Council
County Hall
Glenfield
Leicestershire
LE3 8TE
Submitted via email to: planningcontrol@leics.gov.uk
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Rosalind Eyre
Land and Development Team
Senior Policy Planner
rosalind.eyre@uk.ngrid.com
Direct tel +44 (0)1926 653434
Direct fax +44 (0)1926 656574

www.nationalgrid.com

Dear Mr Wright

**Leicestershire County Council
Leicestershire and Leicester Minerals Development Framework and Waste Development
Framework Core Strategy and Development Control Policies document**

Thank you for your letter dated 18th June 2008 regarding the above documents. Having reviewed your letter we have no specific comments to make, but would like to 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 with regards to 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. Please see the enclosed leaflet for more information on who to contact regarding electricity distribution issues in your area.

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 electricity distribution network area then the local distribution network 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 Leicestershire County Council's administrative area

Electricity Transmission

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

- 4WP line 400,000-volt route from Coventry substation to Enderby substation.
- ZL line 400,000-volt route from Patford Bridge to Willington substation.
- ZA line 400,000-volt route from East Claydon substation to Amesham- Iver substation.
- 4YZ line 400,000-volt route from Ratcliffe substation in Rushcliffe to Enderby substation in Blaby.

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

- Enderby Substation - 400kV

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

<http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/landanddevelopment/ddc/electricitytransmission/overheadlines>

Gas Transmission

National Grid has the following gas transmission assets located within the administrative area of Leicestershire County Council.

Pipeline	Feeder Detail
1187	4 Feeder Tixover / Blaby
1188	4 Feeder Blaby / Alrewas
1451	14 Feeder Alrewas / Churchover
1183	4 Feeder A1 (T) Road / Tixover
1186	2 Feeder Duddington / Churchover
1220	2 Feeder Caldecott / Corby Power Station
1206	4 Feeder Shangton / Tur Langton

National Grid has provided information in relation to gas transmission pipelines via the following internet link:

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

Gas Distribution

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

Plant Protection Team
National Grid Gas
Lakeside House

The Lakes
Bedford Road
Northampton
NN4 7SN

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.

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 6TG

Tel: 0800 7312961
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]
Rosalind Eyre
Senior Policy Planner
Land and Development Team