

Bramford-Twinstead connection project to be put temporarily on hold until later date

- **Bramford-Twinstead electricity connection needed later than originally planned**
- **Project to be put temporarily on hold until closer to the time when it will be required**
- **Residents to be kept informed of developments in the meantime**

A proposed 400,000 volt electricity connection between Bramford, near Ipswich, and Twinstead in Essex is now needed later than originally planned, according to National Grid, following updated information from power generation companies.

National Grid, which keeps in regular contact with generators, has been assessing the latest information from those companies proposing to build new power generation around the East Anglia region, including data about when they would like to start producing electricity. This shows the connection is now expected to be required in the early 2020s rather than 2017.

National Grid's assessment confirms that the proposed 400,000 volt overhead line and underground cable will still be needed to connect new sources of power, including low carbon electricity, to replace old coal and nuclear power stations that are closing.

As a result of this latest information National Grid is putting the project temporarily on hold.

The company had been planning next year to carry out further public consultation and apply for permission to build the Bramford-Twinstead connection with the aim, had permission been granted, of constructing the connection by 2017. Public consultation and the application will now take place nearer to the time when the connection is needed.

Brian Smethurst, Senior Project Manager, National Grid, said: "It's part of our role to connect people to the energy they use and we routinely have to adjust our plans to match those of the generators that we connect to our system. This connection will be paid for through people's electricity bills so we must ensure we only build equipment when it is needed.

"This connection is still necessary to connect new sources of low carbon generation to the system. We will continue to liaise with the generators to ensure this connection is delivered when it is required.

"We remain committed to consulting on our proposals at every stage. We are writing to local communities to explain what this means for them and we will be in touch with people over the coming months and years to keep them informed of any developments on the project."

National Grid has published a report – the Bramford-Twinstead Need Case 2013 - which explains the changes to proposed power generation projects. This can be found on the project website at: www.nationalgrid.com/bramford-twinstead.

The proposed 27 kilometre 400,000 volt overhead line and underground cable is needed to connect proposed power generation projects to the high voltage electricity transmission network in East Anglia.

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