

Dear Crispin

Thank you for your letter dated 11 November and your invitation of 23 November to attend the extraordinary parish meeting on the 8 December.

If I could address some of your concerns in your letter first, I will then come onto the parish meeting.

Firstly, the Route Corridor Study identified two route corridors, both of which are being fully considered at this time. The aim of this first phase of consultation is to seek the views of the local community before then deciding on a preferred route corridor.

With reference to health, National Grid takes this issue very seriously. We believe it is right that the decision on what is acceptable or not is made by Government rather than by us. Accordingly we design all our overhead lines to comply with the Government's recommended exposure limits. A vast amount of research has been done into the possibility of health effects, without establishing any risks below these levels.

I know my colleague Becky Feltham sent you ten copies of the attached booklet which I hope answered more of your questions. Further information is also available via our website www.emfs.info. If you or anyone else would prefer to talk about your concerns, please do not hesitate to call the emf helpline on 0845 702 3270.

Turning now to a sub-sea option, National Grid has considered cabling beneath the Severn Estuary and I would like to reassure you that it wasn't dismissed without proper consideration. I understand that Becky has sent you the link to the full explanation on this. We will also be publishing shortly on our website a report called *Hinkley Point C Connection – Strategic Optioneering*. This outlines the process of developing and assessing options, which led to the proposal for a new 400,000 volt overhead line connection between the proposed Hinkley Point C nuclear power station and National Grid's Seabank substation, near Avonmouth, being taken forward as the subject of a Route Corridor Study.

With reference to the mailing, this was designed to draw people's attention to the project and direct them to more detailed information. As I am sure you will appreciate, it was very difficult to convey such complex project information in one mailing. This is why it also offered residents the opportunity to attend a public exhibition and as a result, nearly 600 people attended. However, we did not rely solely on this mailing to inform the Yatton community of our proposals. Advertisements were placed in the local press prior to the start of the consultation and before the exhibition. There was also media coverage of the consultation and the public exhibition dates.

We are not planning to hold a further consultation meeting in Yatton, however, local residents can still make their views known and have their individual questions answered either by calling us on 0800 377 7347 or e-mailing us on hinkleyconnection@uk.ngrid.com.

With reference to your parish meeting on 8 December, I am sorry but we will not be able to attend. However, I would like to reassure you that National Grid is committed to engaging with your community. In the absence of a National Grid representative at your parish meeting, I want to make sure that any questions you have are answered ahead of the meeting. If you put your questions in an e-mail and send them to the address below, I will personally make sure you get the answers you need before this date providing I am given adequate notice.

We are listening and we do understand that people want a forum where they can engage with us on the project. It was always our intention to set up a number of community forums to achieve this and now that our public consultation has started, we are talking to each of the relevant local authorities for their advice and involvement in setting them up. We anticipate that they will be in existence for a long time to come throughout the planning and construction phases of this connection project. We do hope you will wish to participate in the forum and we will be in touch as soon as the details have been finalised.

I hope you will understand that unfortunately we are not able to fulfil every meeting request we receive but I would like to assure you that we have been making extensive efforts to engage with local people. We have a detailed website, have placed all documentation in local libraries and council offices, and provided all parish councils with a CD containing detailed reports and project information. We have also held briefings and question and answer sessions with over 50 parish councils between Bridgwater and Avonmouth, engaged in 17 public exhibitions approximately every 6km along the route, and have an e-mail and freephone number for people to contact if they need further explanation.

Yours sincerely

Peter Bryant
Senior Project Manager
National Grid