Connah's Quay Low Carbon Power

Draft National Grid Electricity Transmission SoCG

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Document

1.1.1 This Draft Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared to support the application (the Application) for the Connah's Quay Low Carbon Power Project (the Proposed Development) made by Uniper UK Limited (the Applicant). The Application was submitted to the Secretary of State for a Development Consent Order (DCO) (the Order) under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 in July 2025.

1.1.2 This SoCG does not seek to replicate information which is available elsewhere within the Application documents.

1.1.3 SoCGs are an established means in the planning process of allowing all parties to identify and so focus on specific issues that may need to be addressed during the examination. This SoCG has been produced to confirm to the Examining Authority (ExA) where agreement has been reached between the parties and where matters are under discussion or where agreement has not been reached. The SoCG will be progressed during the pre-examination and examination periods to reach a final position between the Parties and to clarify if any issues remain unresolved. This SoCG will be revised and updated as appropriate and/or required by the ExA at relevant examination deadlines.

1.2 Parties to this Statement of Common Ground

1.2.1 This SoCG has been prepared between (1) the Applicant and (2) National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc (National Grid) (jointly referred to as the Parties).

The Applicant

1.2.2 The Applicant is a UK-based company, wholly owned by Uniper SE (Uniper) through Uniper Holding GmbH. Uniper is a European energy company with global reach and activities in more than 40 countries. With around 7,500 employees, the company makes an important contribution to security of supply in Europe, particularly in its core markets of Germany, the UK, Sweden, and the Netherlands. In the UK, Uniper owns and operates a flexible generation portfolio of power stations, a fast-cycle gas storage facility and two high pressure gas pipelines, from Theddlethorpe to Killingholme and from Blyborough to Cottam.

1.2.3 Uniper is committed to investing around €8 billion (~£6.9 billion) in growth and transformation projects by the early 2030s and aims to be carbon-neutral by 2040. To achieve this, the company is transforming its power plants and facilities and investing in flexible, dispatchable power generation units. Uniper is one of Europe's largest operators of hydropower plants and is helping further expand solar and wind power, which are essential for a more sustainable and secure future. Uniper is gradually adding renewable and low-carbon gases such as biomethane to its gas portfolio and is developing a hydrogen portfolio with the aim of a long-term transition. The company plans to offset any remaining CO_2 emissions by high-quality CO_2-offsets.

National Grid

1.2.4 National Grid owns the electricity transmission network in England and Wales. National Grid has a licence to operate the electricity and gas transmission network, and is required to comply with the terms its licence in the delivery of statutory responsibilities. National Grid is subject to a statutory duty (under section 9 of the Electricity Act 1989) to, inter alia, maintain 'an efficient, co-ordinated and economical' system of electricity transmission.

1.2.5 National Grid has a high voltage electricity overhead transmission line within and in close proximity to the Order limits. It also has a substation within the Order limits. As well as works taking place in proximity to this existing infrastructure, works will take place directly to National Grid's electrical connections and substation. National Grid will be an 'undertaker' under the Order for the purposes of works directly to the infrastructure it owns and operates.

1.3 The Proposed Development

1.3.1 The Applicant is seeking a DCO for the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of a proposed low carbon Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) Generating Station fitted with Carbon Capture Plant (CCP) (the 'Connah's Quay Low Carbon Power (CQLCP) Abated Generating Station') and supporting infrastructure (collectively 'the Proposed Development').

1.3.2 The CQLCP Abated Generating Station would comprise up to two CCGT with CCP units (and supporting infrastructure) achieving a net electrical output capacity of more than 350 megawatts (MW; referred to as MWe for electrical output) and up to a likely maximum of 1,380 MWe (with CCP operational) onto the national electricity transmission network.

1.3.3 Through a carbon dioxide (CO_2) pipeline, comprising existing and new elements, the Proposed Development would make use of CO_2 transport and storage networks owned and operated by Liverpool Bay CCS Limited, currently under development as part of the HyNet Carbon Dioxide Pipeline project (referred to as the 'HyNet CO_2 Pipeline Project'), that will transport CO_2 captured from existing and new industries in North Wales and North-West England, for offshore storage. The captured CO_2 will be permanently stored in depleted offshore gas reservoirs in Liverpool Bay.

1.3.4 For the purposes of the electrical connection, National Grid, which builds and maintains the electricity transmission networks, is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the existing 400 kV National Grid Substation.

1.3.5 A description of the Proposed Development, including details of maximum parameters, is set out in **Chapter 4: The Proposed Development** of the **Environmental Statement (ES) (EN010166/APP/6.2.4)**. At this stage in the development, the design of the Proposed Development incorporates a necessary degree of flexibility to allow for ongoing design development.

1.4 Terminology

1.4.1 Section 3 summarises the issues that are 'agreed', 'not agreed' or are 'under discussion'.

1.4.2 These terms are used as follows:

- "Agreed" indicates where the issue has been resolved;
- "Under discussion" indicates where these points will be the subject of ongoing discussion wherever possible to resolve, or refine, the extent of disagreement between the parties; and
- "Not Agreed" indicates a final position where the Parties have agreed to disagree.

2. Record of Engagement

2.1.1 A summary of all meetings and correspondence that has taken place between the Parties in relation to the Application is outlined in **Table 1**. This includes email correspondence between the Parties to discuss sharing of information, arrangement of meetings and where appropriate to comment on draft documentation. **Table 1** reflects the key meetings and emails of note.

Table 1: Record of Engagement

Date	Form of Correspondence and Attendees	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
7 January 2025	Email from the Applicant to National Grid	Request for a copy of National Grid's preferred form bespoke protective provisions.
29 January 2025	Email from the Applicant to National Grid	Following up on initial request for copy of preferred protective provisions and requesting a face to face call.
5 February 2025	Email from the Applicant to National Grid	Following up on initial request for copy of preferred protective provisions and requesting a face to face call.
13 February 2025	Call between the Applicant and National Grid	Discussion of approach to protective provisions. National Grid confirmed their solicitors would be in touch to request an undertaking.
25 March 2025	Email from National Grid's solicitors to the Applicant's solicitors	Introduction and request for undertaking covering fees related to protective provisions.
26 March 2025	Emails between the Applicant's solicitors and National Grid's solicitors	Acknowledging request for undertaking and clarifying parameters of request.
14 May 2025	Email from the Applicant's solicitors to National Grid's solicitors	Providing the required undertaking and requesting copy of provisions.
6 June 2025	Email from National Grid's	Providing copy of

Date	Form of Correspondence and Attendees	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
	solicitors to the Applicant's solicitors	preferred form protective provisions.

3. Areas of Discussion between the Parties

3.1.1 **Table 2** below details the areas of discussion and matters that are agreed, under discussion and not agreed between the Parties.

Table 2: Areas of discussion between the Parties

Ref.	Subject	Relevant Application Document	Applicant Position	National Grid Position	Status	Likelihood of resolution
1	Protective Provisions	**Draft DCO (EN010166/APP/3.1)**	The Draft DCO should include provisions for the protection of National Grid.	The Draft DCO should include provisions for the protection of National Grid.	Agreed	N/A
2	Protective Provisions	**Draft DCO (EN010166/APP/3.1)**	The drafting of the protective provisions on the face of the **Draft DCO (EN010166/APP/3.1)** is under discussion.	The drafting of the protective provisions on the face of the **Draft DCO (EN010166/APP/3.1)** is under discussion.	Under discussion	High

4. Approvals

4.1 The Applicant

Signed: _____

Name: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

4.2 National Grid

Signed: _____

Name: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____