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1. Tessa Munt's maiden speech as Burnham-on-Sea MP on 30th June 2010 centred on National Grid's proposed 40-mile 400kV line in Somerset and Avon. She says "*National Grid sounds like a lovely beneficial or philanthropic organisation, but people need to remember that it is nothing like the National Gallery or the National Trust; it is a multinational corporation with its shareholders' interests at its heart*". <http://www.burnham-on-sea.com/news/2010/tessa-maiden-speech-06-07-10.php>

2. As can often happen, the MP's speech makes good and heartfelt points about the impact on her constituents. Minor errors of detail should not be allowed to obscure a fair overview of concerns. The speech includes: "*National Grid admitted that it was surprised by the number of responses that it received from people in Somerset and along the line. Up until now, it had received only 247-the maximum number of objections that it had ever had to any proposal. Now, after this so-called consultation, it is trying to respond to the 4,106 responses that it has received.*" That is a little mysterious, since NG must know very well there have been more objectors elsewhere – for example some 8,000 formal objections to NG's Yorkshire line in 1992.

3. Republic of Ireland electricity company ESB is to buy Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE) for £1 billion. In recent years the two grid systems have been brought increasingly together with a single wholesale electricity market and working towards a single network. While ESB owns the transmission network assets, Republic of Ireland company Eirgrid operates and develops the transmission system and operates the single wholesale market. Eirgrid already owns the System Operator Northern Ireland (SONI). The Eirgrid/ESB split in the Republic is not exactly the same as the SONI/NIE split in Northern Ireland - the proposed 400kV interconnector is a joint project of Eirgrid and NIE. (The Eirgrid part was withdrawn last week because the application was flawed.) http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/northern_ireland/10534836.stm
<http://www.esb.ie/main/press/press-release411.jsp>

4. Lindsay Shaw, Secretary of Banwell Caves Heritage Group, reports an error in National Grid's maps used in the consultation on the proposed 400kV line to connect Hinkley Point C, claiming NG are not using standard OS maps. Lindsay says "*To mislead the public in this way is not the action of a responsible company and shows a regrettable lack of knowledge about our local area*".

5. The Government will be "launching a re-consultation" in the autumn on the draft energy National Policy Statements (NPS) according to a 15-7-10 DECC statement.

The statement adds “in the Autumn we will publish the latest Nuclear National Policy Statement and the Government response to the consultation which closed in February 2010”. See news293-295 on the earlier consultation, Revolt’s response and related matters. See also news299 on coalition policy and the IPC.

6. Stour Valley Underground (SVU), objectors to the National Grid proposed Bramford-Twinstead 400kV line, issued a July newsletter saying that EDF, who own a 132kV line through Twinstead, are not willing to co-operate with NG who want to take it over and replace it with a bigger one.

<http://www.stourvalleyunderground.org.uk/>