

To: PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE		SUBJECT: Bathgate to Newarthill Gas Transporter Pipeline Works: Scottish Executive Consultation under (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1999.
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT		
Date: 15 th December 2004	Ref: EPT/13/03/MF	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Committee of a recent Scottish Executive consultation exercise regarding an Environmental Statement prepared for a proposed distributor gas pipeline between Bathgate and Newarthill. The report also provides information regarding the requirement for, and route of, the pipeline.

2. Legislative Background

- 2.1 National Grid Transco, (Transco), are required to apply to the Scottish Executive for pipeline construction authorisation for significant pipeline works. Under the Public Gas Transporter Pipeline Works, (Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations) 1999, Scottish Ministers are required to consult specified statutory bodies, including local authorities, regarding the Environmental Statement submitted for the pipeline proposal.
- 2.2 The Environmental Statement details the justification for the pipeline, the proposed route, and the mitigation measures to be taken to reduce any adverse environmental impacts caused by the pipeline construction.

3. Pipeline Proposal, Justification and Route.

- 3.1 Transco has identified a need to reinforce existing gas supplies to Central and South-West Scotland due to a predicted increase in demand. The 22km Bathgate to Newarthill pipeline forms part of this supply network upgrade. Outline planning consent has already been granted for an associated Above Ground Installation, (AGI), at Newarthill.
- 3.2 A further narrower-diameter pipeline extension will connect from the Newarthill AGI to the existing Scottish Area Network at Carfin. The construction of the pipeline and associated facilities is planned to start in April 2005 and is scheduled to be operational by November 2005.

- 3.3 The pipeline route has been identified using Transco's long-standing methodology for route selection taking into account engineering and environmental considerations. In line with this methodology, the project considered alternative routes and alternative locations for the Above Ground Installation.
- 3.4 The finalised route was constrained by the need to avoid large urban areas and previous mining activity. It was not possible therefore to avoid all areas of difficult construction conditions however the route does avoid, wherever possible, statutory sites for nature conservation and Ancient Scheduled Monuments. Furthermore, the proposed route crosses all main roads, including the M8 and rail lines generally at right angles to minimise disruption to traffic.
- 3.5 The pipeline enters North Lanarkshire to the north of the A89 Airdrie to Bathgate road, crosses the A89 in the vicinity of Cairneyhill Quarry. The route then heads westerly for approximately 3.5km, then south for 4km to the M8. Crossing the M8 the route travels to the west of Salsburgh and then south-west passing to the west of Hareshaw. The route then crosses the A73, Newhouse - Newmains road and west to the proposed Above Ground Installation at Newarthill.
- 3.6 From Newarthill, the route heads south-west to Chapelknowe Road, Carfin and then to the proposed tie-in with the existing National Gas Supply Network within the Ravenscraig development site. The route within Ravenscraig has been chosen to avoid conflict with the future regeneration of the site.

4. Consultation Response

- 4.1 North Lanarkshire Council was initially consulted by consultants working on behalf of Transco during the preparation of the Environmental Statement. A number of issues were highlighted by Council staff including:
- the protection of nature conservation value and reducing the visual impact of the AGI at Newarthill;
 - locations of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation and measures to reduce the impact of these;
 - measures to reduce noise, dust and vibration;
 - locations of areas of potentially contaminated land.
- 4.2 The finalised Environmental Statement circulated for consultation by the Scottish Executive, Energy and Telecommunications Division, has addressed most of the issues raised by Council officers' initial response, however further issues were highlighted and further information requested by Council staff within the Council's formal consultation response. These included:
- proposed locations, details and scale of temporary Site Establishment Areas (containing offices, workshops etc).
 - proposed locations of pipe storage areas.
 - proposed mitigation and traffic management measures for these locations.
 - details of techniques for pipeline works at proposed road crossings and finalised traffic management details for these areas.
 - Details of Blast Management Plans for locations where the route requires to cross areas of hard rock thus requiring use of explosives.

4.3 The consultation response was forwarded to the Energy and Telecommunications Division of the Scottish Executive on 8th November 2004 in order to comply with the consultation response deadline.

5. Sustainability Implications

5.1 Transco have advised that the pipeline will be constructed and operated in compliance with both environmental legislative requirements and environmental best practices. A Project Environmental Management Plan is in preparation and where relevant Transco have advised that appropriate staff within North Lanarkshire Council will be consulted.

6. Corporate Considerations

6.1 The pipeline will be financed and constructed by Transco's under enabling, (permitted development), legislation. There should be no financial implications for North Lanarkshire Council.

7. Recommendations

7.1 That Committee.

- 1) Note the proposed construction of the gas transporter pipeline between Bathgate and Newarthill, the associated Above Ground Installation at Newarthill, and connector pipe to the existing gas supply network at Carfin.
- 2) Homologate the Director's response to the Environmental Statement prepared by Transco and circulated by the Scottish Executive for consultation comments.



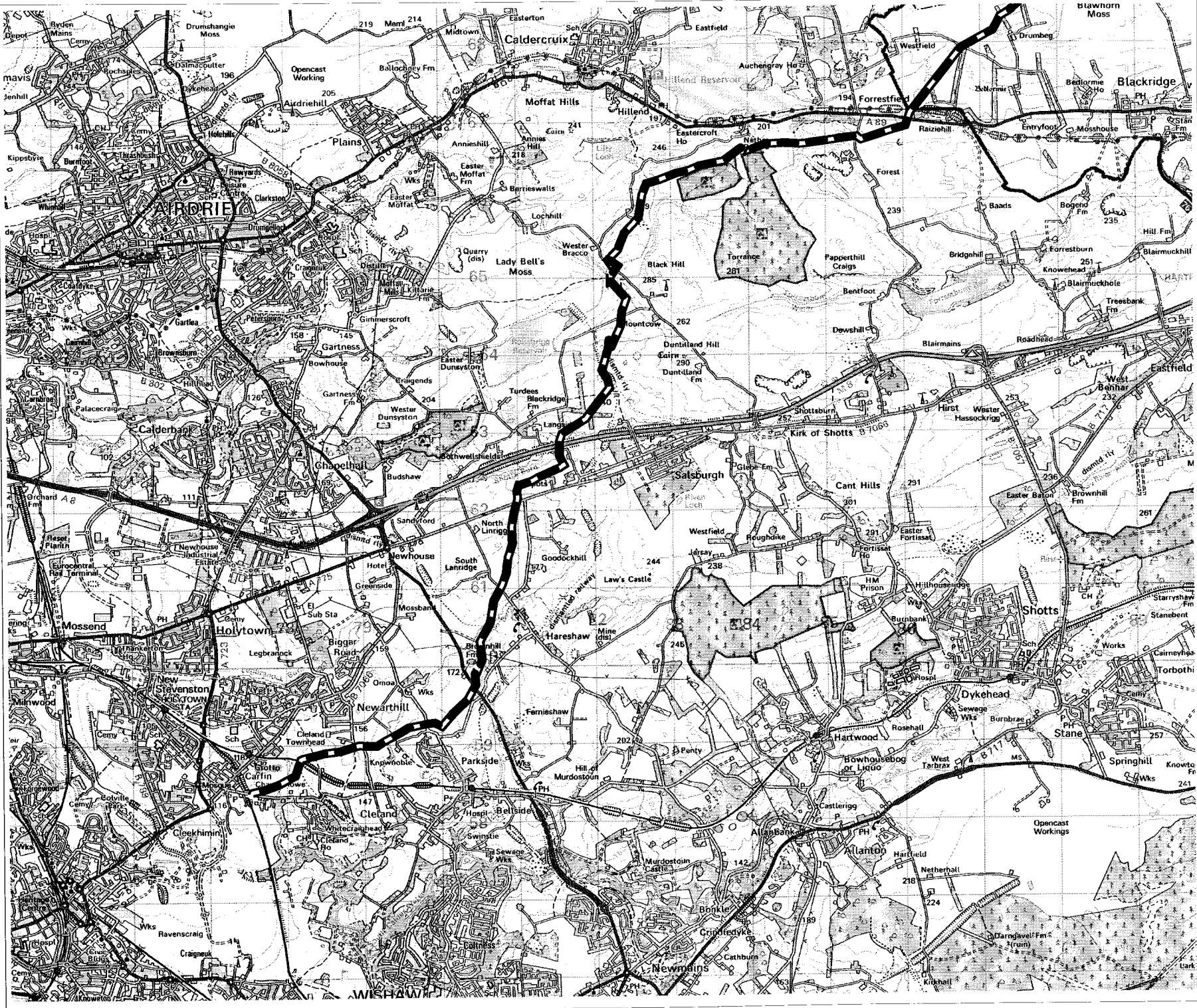
David M. Porch
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT
(12 November 2004)

Local Government Access to Information Act: for further information about this report, please contact Mark Forrest, Planning Officer, on 01236 616239.

Background Papers:

Copy of consultation response letter to Scottish Executive dated 8th November 2004.

Route of Gas Pipeline - North Lanarkshire



1:65000

OS Licence 100023369 2004

North Lanarkshire Council
 Planning and Environment
 Headquarters
 Suite 501, Fleming House
 2 Tryst Road
 CUMBERNAULD
 G67 1 JW

Telephone 01236 616210 Fax. 01236 616232

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.

