

Why grid expansion?

In light of climate change and the nuclear disaster at Fukushima, Germany decided to accelerate its energy policy reform. In future, renewable energy sources will take over the majority of electricity generation.

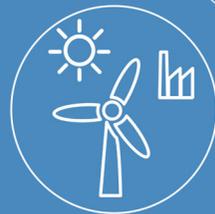
This will have a massive impact on what is required of our transmission networks. For example, electricity from the wind farms in the north will need to be transported to the large cities in the south and west of the country. On top of this, the growing European electricity trade also places high demands on the grid.

How is this done?

Networks need to be expanded sufficiently in order to ensure security of supply. In order to achieve this, there is a multi-stage procedure described in the Energy Act (EnWG) and the Grid Expansion Acceleration Act (NABEG) (see inside).

Who is responsible?

The four transmission system operators who own the German extra-high voltage network are responsible for grid expansion: 50Hertz, Amprion, TenneT and TransnetBW. They apply for and implement projects to be approved by the Bundesnetzagentur or regional authorities.



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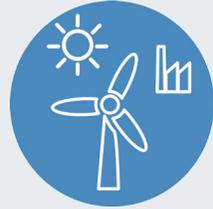
Bundesnetzagentur

Grid Expansion in Germany Public Participation



Who can get involved?

The major grid expansion project affects us all. That's why every citizen is able to get involved in many fundamental decisions. Where plans have already become more concrete, those personally affected have even more extensive rights to make their voice heard. What's more, the Bundesnetzagentur also uses the expert knowledge of authorities or environmental associations, for example.



Scenario Framework



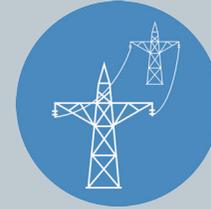
Network Development Plans and Environmental Report



Federal Requirements Plan



Federal Sectoral Planning/
Regional Planning



Planning Approval



Every two years the four transmission system operators (TSOs) draft a **Scenario Framework**. In this document, they estimate how electricity generation and consumption will develop over the next decade.

The TSOs use the Scenario Framework as a basis to work out where the grid needs to be strengthened. They draw up an **Electricity Network Development Plan** and an **Offshore Network Development Plan**. The Bundesnetzagentur lays out the potentially significant effects on people and nature in an **Environmental Report**.

The Network Development Plans and the Environmental Report form the basis for a **Federal Requirements Plan Act**, establishing the necessity and priority of the projects set out in the Act to meet energy supply requirements.

Lines designated in the Federal Requirements Plan Act as spanning federal state or national borders are dealt with in a **Federal Sectoral Planning** process, in which the Bundesnetzagentur decides on route corridors.

The exact future route of a new line within a corridor is determined in the **Planning Approval Procedure**. A route is looked for that has as minimal an impact on people and nature as possible.



Anyone



German legislator



Certain groups of people



Consultation on the Scenario Framework



Consultation on the Network Development Plans by the TSOs



Consultation on the Network Development Plans and the Environmental Report by the Bundesnetzagentur



Parliamentary proceedings



Scoping conference for Federal Sectoral Planning



Participation of the authorities and the public in Federal Sectoral Planning



Public inquiry on Federal Sectoral Planning



Scoping conference for Planning Approval



Hearing on Planning Approval



Public inquiry on Planning Approval