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**Our ref:** LT000095/LT000111\_s37\_application

4th April 2023

**Your ref:** ECU00004736

Dear Nicola

**Application for consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 for construction and operation of approximately 13 km of double circuit steel structure 400 kV overhead between the consented Coire Glas Pumped Storage Scheme near Invergarry and the Fort Augustus Substation, in Auchterawe, referred to as “the Proposed Development”.**

This application is being submitted by Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc (the Applicant) who, operating and known as Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (SSEN Transmission), own, operate and develop the high voltage electricity transmission system in the north of Scotland and remote islands.

The Applicant is seeking consent for the construction and operation of the Proposed Development, known as the Coire Glas Grid Connection Project for which section 37 consent under the 1989 Act and deemed planning permission is sought for the installation and operation of a 400 kV overhead line (OHL) between the Consented Coire Glas Pumped Storage Scheme near Glengarry and the Fort Augustus Substation, Auchterawe.

The Applicant has also applied for a direction under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 that planning permission for the development be deemed to be granted.

There is a requirement for a new Switching Station (referred to as the “proposed Coire Glas Switching Station”) in the Glengarry Forest and a new Substation (referred to as the “proposed Loch Lundie Substation”) near Loch Lundie. These do not form part of this Section 37 application and separate planning applications will be submitted to The Highland Council in Summer 2023.

## **The Proposal**

A full description of the Proposed Development is provided in Volume 1 Chapter 3 of the EIA Report submitted with this application. In summary, the Proposed Development comprises:

- The installation and operation of approximately 13 km of new double circuit 400 kV OHL supported by steel lattice towers. This comprises approximately 4.7 km of OHL from the proposed Coire Glas Switching Station to the proposed Loch Lundie Substation, and approximately 8.5 km of OHL from the proposed Loch Lundie Substation to the existing Fort Augustus Substation. Terminal towers would be required to connect at the switching station and both substations;
- Re-routing of the 132 kV Fort Augustus to Fort William OHL and the 132 kV Invergarry Tee OHL to turn into the proposed new Loch Lundie Substation; and
- Installation of a new temporary OHL diversion, including the installation of up to eight temporary Trident wood poles, to enable operation of the 132 kV Fort Augustus to Fort William OHL whilst the OHL is rerouted into the proposed new Loch Lundie Substation.

### **Ancillary Development for which Deemed Planning Permission is sought**

The following ancillary works would be required as part of the Proposed Development, or to facilitate its construction and operation:

- The formation of access tracks (permanent, temporary, and upgrades to existing tracks) and the installation of bridges and culverts to facilitate access;
- The upgrade of existing, or creation of new, bellmouths at public road access points;
- Establishment of temporary measures to protect road and water crossings (e.g. scaffolding);
- Working areas around infrastructure to facilitate construction;
- Tree felling and vegetation clearance to facilitate construction and operation of the Proposed Development, to comply with the Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations (ESQCR) 2002; and
- Decommissioning and dismantling of a section of the existing 132 kV steel lattice Fort Augustus to Fort William OHL between the proposed Loch Lundie Substation and the existing Fort Augustus Substation.

### **Land Rights**

The Applicant is in discussions and negotiations with 7 Landowners and Tenants affected by the Proposed Development and intends to issue notices in terms of Schedule 4, Paragraph 6 of the Electricity Act during June 2023. It is currently anticipated that between 3 to 5 Necessary Wayleave applications will be submitted to the ECU during July 2023.

### **Application Details**

The following documents have been submitted in support of this application:

- Planning Statement.
- Detailed Maps of the Proposed Development including the site location, proposed indicative alignment, access tracks, temporary diversion, and further detailed maps on specific aspects of the EIA report.
- EIA Report with associated Technical Appendices and Figures.

- Peat Landslide Hazard Risk Assessment (PLHRA) (EIA Report Technical Appendix 10.2) which follows the PLHRA Best Practice Guide for Proposed Electricity Generation Developments (Second Edition), published at <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/04/8868>.
- Non-Technical Summary.
- A separate Schedule of Mitigation.
- Consultee List.

### **Consultation**

A Consultee List has been submitted to the ECU. This identifies statutory and non-statutory consultees that SSEN has identified, to be contacted by the ECU to request a formal representation. The content of this will be agreed with the ECU.

### **Section 37 Press Advert**

A draft advert has been issued to the ECU Case Officer for agreement prior to printing. The papers listed below would be used to publish the Section 37 Advert for the Proposed Development.

- Edinburgh Gazette
- Press and Journal

The above addresses the minimum requirement to publish the advert in one or more newspapers circulating in the locality of The Proposed Development (for two consecutive weeks) and in the Edinburgh Gazette (for one week).

The date of publication of the adverts will be agreed in advance with the ECU.

### **Confidential Information**

The Applicant will submit all confidential information directly to the ECU Case Officer via email and has not uploaded any confidential information to the online portal. We will also contact NatureScot regarding how they wish to receive the confidential annexes.

### **Payment**

An application fee of £23,400 has been paid to the ECU.

### **Next Steps**

We trust that the submission is complete and look forward to confirmation of receipt and validation. Should you have any queries or require further information please contact me on the details above. Thank you for your consideration of this application.

Yours sincerely

Lead Consents and Environment Manager