

10 May 2022

Dear Recipient

I am writing to you to provide an update that SSEN Transmission are due to apply for consent under Section 37 of The Electricity Act 1989, to install a 275kV overhead line between our new Creag Dhubh Substation and a tee point on the existing Scottish Power overhead line near Succoth Glen in April 2022. We will also submit our Town and Country Planning application to Argyll and Bute Council for the Creag Dhubh Substation during this period.

The proposed overhead line is being submitted following extensive consultation and feedback from the local community and wider stakeholders over several years which has led to significant changes in the project's design. Our proposals have been carefully designed so that views of the infrastructure are filtered and screened by forestry and topography where possible, with much of the alignment backdropped against woodland and hills to reduce its visual impact. We have also moved the line to bring it further away from residential properties and key viewpoints.

Information regarding the project, alongside project documentation and details regarding our consultation and routeing process can be accessed via the dedicated project webpage:

<https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/creag-dhubh-dalmally-275kv-connection>

This project is part of the wider Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Strategy, to upgrade the main transmission network across Argyll to 275kW to support the growth in renewables across the region and the transition to net zero emissions. It will support at least 560 Mega Watts of new renewable electricity generation, enough to power more than 500,000 homes. Find out more at the following webpage: [Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Strategy \(ssen-transmission.co.uk\)](https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/argyll-and-kintyre-275kv-strategy)

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic we were unable to carry out in-person public events during 2020/2021. Instead, we held virtual consultations, where we created an online exhibition including live chat sessions with the project team. These events took place in the summers of 2020 and 2021. Following requests from the local community and with the restrictions temporarily lifted our project team were able to come and meet with the community in Dalmally in October 2021 to answer questions and give further information on the project.

Whilst we acknowledge there will inevitably be an impact from the development of any new infrastructure, we firmly believe we have struck a fair balance between responding to community and stakeholder

feedback, including minimising landscape and visual impacts where possible; protecting the local environment and avoiding national designations in the area; and minimising costs to the GB consumer who will ultimately pay for this critical national infrastructure through their energy bills. We remain committed to continue to work constructively and openly with the local community and wider stakeholders as we take forward this project, which is key to support the transition to net zero emissions. As part of this we plan on holding an information event to share visualisations and answer any queries the local community may have in the coming weeks – we will share details once a viable date and location has been confirmed.

In the meantime we will notify you once our applications have been submitted for consent and provide details on how you can make representations during this time. We will also continue to engage closely with local stakeholders during the project planning application process. Section 37 applications are submitted and approved by Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit. Our Town and Country Planning Application will be submitted to Argyll and Bute Council for approval.

Should you have any questions relating to the development proposals, please do not hesitate to contact me for further information.

Yours sincerely

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