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9th November 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

ECU ref: ECU00004490

Western Isles Reinforcement - Construction and Operation of a Single Circuit 132 kV Overhead Line Supported by Trident H Poles between Harris Grid Supply Point and Stornoway Substation with Associated Ancillary Works

Section 37 of The Electricity Act 1989

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc (the Applicant), operating and known as Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission, is pleased to submit this application for the construction and operation of a new single circuit 132 kV overhead line (OHL), supported by trident H poles between the existing Harris Grid Supply Point and an existing substation on Lewis and associated ancillary works including vegetation clearance, upgrading and/or establishment of new junction bellmouths, temporary access for construction, measures to protect the road/crossings during construction and the dismantling of the existing OHL.

The Proposed Development is required to address the condition of the existing Harris-Stornoway 132 kV OHL connection, with a secondary requirement to improve network resilience. The requirement is to construct a trident H pole 132 kV OHL between Harris GSP (Grid Reference NG 1350 9425) and Stornoway Substation (Grid Reference NB 4019 3234), to replace the existing single pole trident line and would be approximately 58km in length.

The proposal has been developed with careful consideration of the potential environmental effects and it is our view that with mitigation in place, it would not result in unacceptable effects on the environment.

The project team is in the process of securing the relevant land agreements and wayleaves required for the proposal to be taken forward. A number of necessary wayleaves are expected

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to required for this project and it is expected that these, and all other agreements, will be in place before during the determination period of this s37 consent application. We will be able to provide further updates during the determination and to confirm that these are all in place before the application is determined.

The Proposed Development is categorised as ‘Schedule 2’ development under the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017. Rather than seeking a Screening Opinion, the Applicant sought to produce an EIA report to support this s37 application for consent. A request for an EIA Scoping Opinion was submitted Scottish Ministers in May 2022 to determine the information to be provided within the EIA report. The subsequent Scoping Opinion was received on 11th July 2022.

The application has been submitted along with the supporting documents as set out in Annex 1 of this letter. It is worth noting that the accompanying EIA report contains confidential information which cannot be made publicly available and will be issued/emailed separately (Chapter 5 and associated appendices).

The application fee has been paid by BACS transfer with reference number **ECU37HARRISTOSTO**.

We look forward to receiving formal confirmation of receipt of this application. In the meantime, should you have any queries or require further information, please contact me on the details above.

Yours faithfully

Mairi Rigby

Senior Consents and Environment Manager

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission

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ANNEX 1 – Planning Submission Documents

- Site Location Plan
- Site Plan
- Planning Statement
- Report on Consultation
- Design & Access Statement
- Environmental Impact Assessment Report: Non-Technical Summary
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

EIA Structure – Main Report

Chapter 1 – Introduction

Chapter 2 – Description of Proposed Development

Chapter 3 – Consideration of Alternatives

Chapter 4 – EIA Consultation and Scope

Chapter 5 – Methodology

Chapter 6 – Seascape, Landscape and Visual Amenity

Chapter 7 – Cultural Heritage

Chapter 8 – Ecology and Nature Conservation

Chapter 9 – Ornithology

Chapter 10 – Hydrology

Chapter 11 – Traffic

Chapter 12 – Cumulative Effects

Chapter 13 – Schedule of Mitigation

Figures

Figure 1-1 – Location Plan and Overview

Figure 2.1 a-e – Proposed Development

Figure 2.2 a- e – Land Take and Forestry Removal

Figure 2.3 a - f – Access Strategy

Figure 3.1 – Proposed Corridor

Figure 3.2 a- f – Route Options

Figure 3.3 a – f – Alignment Options

Figure 3.4 – Preferred Alignment

Figure 6.1 - ZTV, Study Area and Viewpoint Locations

Figure 6.2 - Topography and Viewpoint Locations

Figure 6.3a - Seascape Character Types, Landscape Character Types and Viewpoint Locations

Figure 6.4a-b - Landscape Designations and Classifications and Viewpoint Locations

Figure 6.5a-f - Visual Receptors with ZTV and Viewpoint Locations – Overview

Figure 6.6 a-l – Cumulative Developments

Figure 7.1a-j - Cultural Heritage Assets within the Study Areas

Figure 8.1 - Ecology Constraints

Figure 8.2a-f - Phase 1 Habitats

Figure 8.3a-f - NVC

Figure 8.4a-f – GWDTE

Figure 9.1 - Ornithology Survey Locations

Figure 9.2 - Designated Sites

Figure 9.3a-g - Vantage Point Survey Results - Golden Eagle

Figure 9.4a-f - Moorland Bird Survey Results

Figure 9.5a-f - Wintering Bird Survey Results -East Loch Tarbert, Loch Direcleit and Loch Ceann Dibig

Figure 9.6 - Confidential Survey Results

Figure 9.7 - Line Marking

Figure 10.1a-r - Surface Water Features

Figure 10.2a-f - Drinking Water Protected Areas

Figure 10.3a-f - Bedrock Geology

Figure 10.4a-f - Superficial Geology

Figure 10.5a-f - Hydrogeology

Figure 10.6a-f - Carbon and Peatland Mapping 2016

Figure 10.7a-r - Peat Depth Plan

Figure 10.8a-r - Habitats with the Potential to be Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems – National Vegetation Classification

Figure 10.9a-f - Private Water Supplies

Figure 11.1 - Study Area

Figure 11.2 -Traffic Count Locations

Figure 11.3 - Accident Locations

Figure 11.4 - Construction Traffic Delivery Route

Figure 12.1 - Cumulative Developments

Appendices

Technical Appendix 1.1: Technical Team

Technical Appendix 2.1: Detailed Pole Schedule

Technical Appendix 2.2: SSEN Transmission General Environmental Management Plans (GEMP);

Technical Appendix 2.3: SSEN Transmission Species Protection Plans (SPP).

Technical Appendix 2.4: Woodland Plans

Technical Appendix 4.1: EIA Scoping Report

Technical Appendix 4.2: Scoping Opinion

Technical Appendix 4.3: Consultation Register

Technical Appendix 6.1 Seascape & Landscape Character Types Baseline Description

Technical Appendix 6.2 Landscape Designations & Classifications

Technical Appendix 6.3 Residual Effects on Seascape & Landscape Character Types

Technical Appendix 6.4: Residual Effects on Landscape Designations & Classifications

Technical Appendix 6.5: Viewpoint Assessment

Technical Appendix 6.6: WLIA

Technical Appendix 6.7: RVAA

Technical Appendix 7.1: Cultural Heritage Assets in the Inner Study Area

Technical Appendix 7.2: Cultural Heritage Assets in the Outer Study Area

Technical Appendix 8.1: Ecology Methodology & Results

Technical Appendix 8.2: Outline Habitat Management Plan

Technical Appendix 9.1: Ornithology Methodology

Technical Appendix 10.1: Peat Survey Results Report

Technical Appendix 10.2: Outline Peat Management Plan

Technical Appendix 10.3: Peat Slide Hazard Risk Assessment

Technical Appendix 10.4: Watercourse Crossing Assessment

Technical Appendix 10.5: Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystem Assessment

Technical Appendix 10.6: Private Water Supply Assessment

Technical Appendix 11.1: Transport Assessment