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15 September 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

ECU ref: ECU00004820

Lairg II Windfarm Grid Connection – Installation of a new section of overhead line (OHL) comprising of three 132 kV downleads.

Section 37 of The Electricity Act 1989

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc (*the Applicant*), operating and known as Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (SSEN Transmission) is pleased to submit this application under Section 37 (s37) of The Electricity Act 1989, for the installation of a short section of new overhead line (OHL) in the form of three 132 kV downleads each of which will be approximately 30 metres in length and 10 m in horizontal distance from an existing OHL tower. The downleads will be attached to the existing steel lattice transmission tower 31 on the existing Dalchork-Loch Buidhe 132 kV OHL. The downleads will then connect into proposed cable sealing end and surge arrestor structures.

Ancillary Development

The following ancillary development is proposed including:

- Cable Sealing End Compound (CSEC)
- Bellmouth access from the existing access track to the CSEC
- Temporary laydown and construction area.

Deemed planning permission, under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) (Act) 1997 is sought for the ancillary development as part of the s37 application.

Associated development

The Proposed Development is required to connect a new 132 kV underground cable (UGC) between the consented Lairg II Wind Farm substation (sited approximately at NC 59814 03228) to the national grid. The proposed UGC is considered by the *Applicant* to benefit from permitted development rights under Class 40 1(a) of The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Scotland) Order 1992 and therefore does not form part of this application.

Environmental Appraisal

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 Proposed Development was subject of a request for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Opinion under regulation 8(1) of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017. The subsequent opinion (ECU reference ECU00004784) was received on 05/06/2023 confirming that the Proposed Development is non-EIA and an EIA is not required. Therefore, a voluntary Environmental Appraisal (EA) has been produced and submitted to support this application. The EA sets out that with the successful implementation of embedded and additional mitigation measures, there will be no significant residual effects from the Proposed Development.

Whilst the UGC will be installed under Permitted development rights and therefore does not form part of this application the EA does report on the UGC element in order to identify any environmental mitigation required.

The Application

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 voluntary EA contains confidential ecology and ornithology information (Appendix 4-1 and Figure 4-5) which cannot be made publicly available and hence will be provided separately.

The application fee has been paid by BACS transfer with reference number ECU37NLAIRGIIWIN**.**

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,

Sarah Lashley
Assistant Consents and Environment Manager
Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission

ANNEX 1 – Application Submission Documents

- Application Covering Letter
- Site Location Plan
- Site Layout Plan
- Cable Sealing End Compound Overview
- Cable Sealing End Compound Elevation
- Voluntary Environmental Appraisal:

Voluntary EA

Chapter 1 – Introduction

Chapter 2 – Proposed Development

Chapter 3 – Appraisal Scope and Methodology

Chapter 4 – Ecology and Nature Conservation

Chapter 5 – Cultural Heritage

Chapter 6 – Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat

Chapter 7 – Landscape and Visual

Chapter 8 – Summary of Mitigation Measures

Appendices

Appendix 2-1 – CSE Compound Drawings

Appendix 2-2 – General Environmental Management Plans

Appendix 2-3 – Species Protection Plan

Appendix 4-1 – Confidential Ecology Baseline

Appendix 4-2 – UKHab Report

Appendix 4-3 – Protected Species Report

Appendix 5-1 – Cultural Heritage Gazetteer

Appendix 6-1 – Outline Soil and Peat Management Plan

Figures