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**Our ref:** LT000091\_s37\_application

15<sup>th</sup> September 2022

**Your ref:** ECU00003395

Dear Shafharia

**Application for consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 for (1) construction and operation of approximately 110 km of double circuit steel structure 132 kV overhead between Fort Augustus and Edinbane Substation, (2) approximately 27 km of new single circuit trident H wood pole overhead line between Edinbane Substation and Ardmore Substation and (3) 750 m temporary diversion of the existing 132 kV overhead line at Inchlaggan, in the Highlands, together 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 Skye Reinforcement Project for which section 37 consent under the 1989 Act and deemed planning permission is sought for the installation and operation of a 132 kV overhead line (OHL) between Fort Augustus and Ardmore Substation, on the Isle of Skye, with a temporary diversion of the existing 132 kV OHL at Inchlaggan to facilitate construction of the new OHL.

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.

### **The Proposal**

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

- The installation and operation of approximately 110 km of new double circuit 132 kV OHL supported by steel lattice towers between Fort Augustus and Edinbane Substation;
- The installation and operation of approximately 27 km of new single circuit 132 kV OHL supported by H Poles between Edinbane Substation and Ardmore Substation; and

- Temporary diversion of the existing 132 kV OHL at Inchlaggan for approximately 750 m to facilitate construction of the new OHL.

The total length of the new transmission connection would be approximately 160 km in length (which includes approximately 24km of underground cable). Following completion of the Skye Reinforcement Project, the existing 132 kV OHL would be dismantled and removed.

Ancillary works for the construction and maintenance of the OHL, including:

- The installation of approximately 24 km of new double circuit 132 kV underground cable;
- The construction of Cable Sealing End (CSE) compounds to facilitate the transition between the OHL and sections of underground cable, including permanent access to these compounds;
- 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;
- Foundation works required at the existing crossing and anchor towers at Kyle Rhea that are to be utilised as part of the Proposed Development; and
- Dismantling of the existing 132 kV OHL following completion and commissioning of the Skye Reinforcement Project.

### **Land Rights**

The Applicant is in discussions with Landowners and Tenants affected by the Proposed Development and intend to issue notices in terms of Schedule 4, Paragraph 6 of the Electricity Act during October 2022. It is currently anticipated that between 5 to 10 Necessary Wayleave applications will be submitted to the ECU during November 2022.

### **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.
- Public Consultation Report (EIA Report Appendix V1-6.1)
- EIA Report with associated Technical Appendices and Figures.
- Peat Landslide Hazard Risk Assessment (PLHRA) (EIA Report Technical Appendix V.2-7.2) 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 with this application. 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 list has already been 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
- West Highland Free Press

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, The Highland Council and RSPB respectively regarding how they wish to receive the confidential annexes.

### **Payment**

An application fee of £204,000 has been paid and ECU has confirmed receipt of this.

### **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

*Joanne Nicolson*

Lead Consents and Environment Manager