

Project Overview

The aim of the Lairg (Dalchork) to Loch Buidhe project is to enable renewable energy to connect to our transmission network. Under our Network Operators Licence, this connection should be efficient, co-ordinated and economic, whilst having the least possible impact on people and the environment.

The main elements of the project are as follows:

- Construction of a new c.17km 132kV overhead line between Lairg (Dalchork) and Loch Buidhe;
- Construction of a new 132kV substation at Dalchork;
- Dismantling of the existing 132kV overhead line between Shin Substation and Lairg Grid Supply Point.

Since our previous public consultation in February 2015, we have completed a review of the generation background in the Lairg area which looked at what's connected, what's contracted to connect and what's in scoping. The review concluded that the reinforcement option to be progressed for the Lairg (Dalchork) to Loch Buidhe project is now a 132kV overhead line; the previous option was a 275kV overhead line.

The rationale for using an overhead line solution is detailed within the Consultation Document (Lairg Loch Buidhe - Consultation Document Dec 2017) available on our project website. This change has resulted in a significant reduction in tower heights and reduction in the footprint of the substation, as 275kV infrastructure, including super grid transformers, is no longer required.

Consultation on the Preferred Alignment

At a series of consultation events and public meetings Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Plc (SHE Transmission) have presented the preferred overhead route. In the last year our project team have been in consultation with landowners, stakeholders and specialist consultants to develop the revised preferred alignment.

The purpose of this consultation is to present our revised proposal for the overhead line between Lairg and Loch Buidhe using 132kV steel lattice tower line and give members of the public an opportunity to provide valued input ahead of the preparation of a consent application under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989, as amended, to the Scottish Ministers in summer 2018.

Throughout this process we will continue to liaise with all key stakeholders.

Project Timeline

Current forecasted programme subject to change

