

**FLOOD RISK HYDROLOGY RESPONSE TO REQUEST  
FOR INFORMATION RELATING TO FLOOD RISK**

**NORTH AREA (DINGWALL OFFICE)**

**- INTERNAL MEMO -**

**IF USED IN EXTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE PLEASE DELETE HYDROLOGY CONTACT INFORMATION**

|                            |  |                      |                |
|----------------------------|--|----------------------|----------------|
| <b>Site:</b>               | St Fergus Transformer, Aberdeenshire     |                      |                |
| <b>SEPA Ref:</b>           | <b>171314</b>                            | <b>Planning Ref:</b> | <b>0478671</b> |
| <b>Documents Reviewed:</b> | FRA (SLR April 2020 v5. 428.00660.00074) |                      |                |

### Summary

We have **no objection** to the proposed development on flood risk grounds. Notwithstanding this we would expect Scottish Government to undertake their responsibilities as the Flood Risk Management Authority.

### Technical Report

1. This FRA appears to build on the report previously carried out by SLR in 2019 which we commented on in November 2019 (PCS/148353). The flows have been updated to reflect the latest regional climate change guidance, and additional modelling to assess offsite risk has been included.
2. We welcome the inclusion of the latest climate change values. We previously advised that although there was some uncertainty with using ReFH2 in some parts of Scotland, including the North East the flow estimates provided seemed conservative. Additionally we hold no information to indicate the flows stated would not be suitable for the assessment so have no further comments on the hydrology.
3. The design flood level with climate change is now 7.8mAOD, which is a slight increase from the previous assessment, although the substation is still outwith the modelled flood extent. However the freeboard has now been increased to 600mm. The design level for the platform will now be 8.4mAOD, which we have no issues with.
4. Sensitivity analysis has been carried out, and any changes in flood level would be small and within the freeboard limits. The additional modelling shows that there is not expected to be an increase in flood levels at downstream receptors.
5. Although the transmission tower is within the floodplain, we already considered that this could be acceptable for 'essential utility infrastructure'. While we have no flood risk concerns with the tower in this location, we reiterate that we do not have the technical expertise to comment if the design would be sufficient to ensure the site remains operational during floods, and leave the applicant to consider and accept any risk from this.

## **Caveats & Additional Information for Applicant**

6. Please note that we are reliant on the accuracy and completeness of any information supplied by the applicant in undertaking our review, and can take no responsibility for incorrect data or interpretation made by the authors.
7. The advice contained in this letter is supplied to you by SEPA in terms of Section 72 (1) of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 on the basis of information held by SEPA as at the date hereof. It is intended as advice solely to Scottish Government as Planning Authority in terms of the said Section 72 (1).