



Scottish & Southern
Electricity Networks

Mr Steve Callan
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Planning and Development
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Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Plc
Inveralmond House
200 Dunkeld Road
Perth PH1 3AQ
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11 February 2021

Dear Steve,

ePlanning ref: 100313592-001

Our ref: LT96/ Substation/ FPP

National Development: Erection of reactive power compensation electricity substation comprising platform area, control building, associated plant and infrastructure, ancillary facilities, access track(s), laydown area(s), and landscape works.

The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended)

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc. (SHE Transmission) is pleased to submit this planning application for full planning permission for the *Erection of reactive power compensation electricity substation comprising platform area, control building, associated plant and infrastructure, ancillary facilities, access track(s), laydown area(s), and landscape works (National Development)*, at Land 1, 100 metres North of Braes Lodge, Foss, Perthshire.

The planning application fee of £86,650 was paid via BACS (ref: 1713222) on 25th January 2021 and is based on the site area of 38.3ha. The advert fee of £61.10 has also been paid.

Given the scale of this proposed National Development, we request that, under Section 58 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, a direction is made to extend the period of consent to 5 years.

Inveralmond House, 200 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 3AQ 

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The Proposal

The proposal is required to connect to the Beauldy-Denny 400/275kV double-circuit overhead line located immediately to the west. The grid connection is subject to a separate application under section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 (as amended).

The completion of the Beauldy Denny line in 2015 has significantly increased the thermal capacity of the network to transfer power through the west corridor. This, in addition to the connection of a number of windfarms results in the power flowing through the line significantly increasing in the next 10 years. Connections can cause changes to voltage levels which without intervention could mean the network would not meet voltage requirements as set by regulations. Reactive power support delivered through the proposed Reactive Compensation Substation development will ensure voltage levels stay within the required limits and assist in the continuation of the quality and supply of electricity across the network.

The Application

A Proposal of Application Notice was submitted on 7th October 2019 with two public events being held in November 2019 and August 2020, following receipt of a formal pre-application response from PKC in August 2019. The pre-application response and discussions arising from that between Lauren Riach and Steve Callan have determined the application content which agreed key omissions such as handling the CEMP as a pre-commencement condition, incorporating sustainability assessment issues within the EIA Report and Planning Statement as relevant and incorporating the Design & Access Statement within the Planning Statement.

A screening request was submitted to the Council on 7th November 2019 and PKC determined the application was EIA development. A Scoping request was submitted in September 2020 and a Scoping Opinion was received from PKC on 9th December 2020.

The Application is therefore supported by the following documents:

- Full set of plans and drawings:
- EIA Report:
 - Volume 1: Non Technical Summary (NTS)
 - Volume 2: Main Report;
 - Volume 3a: Figures;
 - Volume 3b: Visualisations;
 - Volume 4: Technical Appendices;
 - Volume 5a: Schedule of Mitigation – The Proposed Development;
 - Volume 5b: Schedule of Mitigation – The Associated Development.
- Planning Statement incorporating Design & Access Statement;
- PAC Report.

Additional Information

The proposed development comprises a new 275kV reactive power compensation substation and associated infrastructure. The building will however have the capacity to provide 400kV capacity. The proposed substation typology is relatively new to the business and exact building sizes are evolving throughout the design and consenting process. We have submitted a large building footprint to enable worst case scenario to be assessed within the EIA, and to inform the overall assessment of the application. We firmly hope to be able to optimise this building prior to construction. In that respect we propose it would be prudent for a planning condition to be placed on any resultant consent for final plans to be submitted for that specific building. I would welcome early discussion in this regard upon registration.

We have also agreed in advance that items such as CEMP, and final landscaping proposals should also be finalised via pre-commencement condition. Likewise, the final position of SUDS ponds, inline with the drainage strategy provided within the submission, is envisaged to be finalised via a pre-commencement condition.

You are aware that the approach to the EIA has been agreed with yourselves and ECU as a whole project with the associated OHL works / tie ins being considered within the submitted EIA as cumulative development. The effects and any mitigation arising are drawn out separately for ease and reference to the reader and decision makers.

Next Steps

I trust that the submission is complete and look forward to early confirmation of receipt and registration. Should you have any queries or require further information please contact me on the details above. We have worked hard to liaise with you in the pre-application stage and have confirmed to you the proposed programme for delivery of the works on site. We would welcome regular updates and communication on the progression of the application and look forward to formalising a Processing Agreement in early course.

Yours sincerely

Pippa Gardner

Town Planning Specialist
Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks