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11<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

**ECU ref:** ECU00004639

**To install and keep installed approximately 14.5 km of 132 kV single circuit overhead line supported on trident double wood pole structures between two proposed new underground cable sealing end wood pole structures, located north of Fort Augustus, including ancillary works.**

### **Section 37 of The Electricity Act 1989**

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc is pleased to submit this application for the construction and operation of the new 132 kV Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm Grid Connection (overhead line) works, including the ancillary works of temporary and permanent access track and hardstanding areas.

The Proposed Development is required to connect the consented Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm substation (NH 39211 21003) to the national grid via a 132 kV transmission connection to Fort Augustus Substation. The Proposed Development would consist of one 132 kV overhead line of approximately 14.5 km in length and include the ancillary works of temporary and permanent access track and hardstanding areas along with tree felling and ground clearance. The proposed overhead line would be supported by wood pole structures located at the grid references as indicated in the pole schedule document included in this application.

This application seeks consent for a limit of deviation (LoD) of 100 metres (i.e. 50 m either side of the alignment). A LoD of 30 metres (i.e. 15 m either side) of the proposed access track is also sought.

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

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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 grid connection from the proposed Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm includes two sections of underground cable (UGC). The two sections of UGC are identified and assessed in the application documents. The UGC element of the connection, would be installed under the Town and Country Permitted Development (Scotland) Order 1992 (as amended) and as such does not form part of this application. The voluntary Environmental Appraisal (EA) that accompanies this Section 37 application does however assess and report on the UGC element in order to identify any environmental mitigation required.

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 ECU00003379) was received on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022 confirming that the Proposed Development is not an EIA and an EIA is not required. Therefore, a voluntary Environmental Appraisal (EA) has been produced and submitted to support 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 (Appendices 5.3 and 6.4 and Figures 5.4, 6.5 and 6.7) which cannot be made publicly available and hence will be emailed separately.

The application fee has been paid via BACS transfer with reference number **ECU37NBHLARAI DHE**.

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

Keith Smith

**Senior Consents and Environment Manager**

**Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission**

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## **ANNEX 1 – Planning Submission Documents**

- Site Location Plan (showing s37 elements only)
- Site Plan (showing s37 elements only)
- Planning Statement
- Report on Consideration of the Highland Council’s OWESG Loch Ness Landscape Sensitivity Study
- Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report
- Pole Schedule
- Voluntary Environmental Appraisal (EA):

### Voluntary EA

Contents and Glossary

Chapter 1 – Introduction and Background

Chapter 2 – Routeing Process and Alternatives

Chapter 3 – The Proposed Development

Chapter 4 – Landscape and Visual

Chapter 5– Ecology

Chapter 6 – Ornithology

Chapter 7 – Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils

Chapter 8 – Cultural Heritage

Chapter 9 – Forestry

Chapter 10 – Schedule of Mitigation

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Annex 1.1A: UGC Landscape Effects Assessment Tables

Annex 1.1B: UGC Visual Effects Assessment Tables

Appendix 1.2: Screening Opinion

Appendix 3.1: SSEN Transmission General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs)

Appendix 3.2: SSEN Transmission Species Protection Plans (SPPs)

Appendix 4.1: Landscape Assessment Tables

Appendix 4.2: Visual Assessment Tables

Appendix 5.1: Field Survey Methodology

Appendix 5.2: Target Notes

Appendix 5.3: Protected Species Records (Confidential)

Appendix 5.4: HMP Appraisal

Appendix 6.1: Ornithology Methodology

Appendix 6.2: Baseline Survey Results

Appendix 6.3: Local Ornithological Records

Appendix 6.4: Sensitive Bird Records (Confidential)

Appendix 8.1: Gazetteer of Cultural Heritage Sites

Appendix 9.1: Forestry Photographic Record

Appendix 9.2: OHL Woodland Report – Glenmoriston Estate

Appendix 9.3: OHL Woodland Report – FLS Woodland

## Appendix 9.4: Compensatory Planting Management Strategy