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15th September 2022

Our ref: LT288/An Suidhe Substation

Your ref: ECU000004620

Dear Shafharia

Install and keep installed approximately 1.34 km of realigned 275kV overhead line supported on six new steel towers to connect the proposed An Suidhe Substation via downleads to the existing 275kV Inveraray to Crossaig overhead line, approximately 4 km south west of Inveraray, Argyll and Bute.

This application is being submitted by Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc (operating and known as SSEN Transmission). SSEN Transmission is seeking consent under section 37 of The Electricity Act 1989 for the installation of approximately 1.34 km of realigned 275kV overhead line (OHL) supported on six new steel towers to connect the proposed An Suidhe Substation via downleads to the existing 275kV Inveraray to Crossaig OHL, approximately 4 km south west of Inveraray, Argyll and Bute.

The application fee of £600 has been paid via BACS and is based on the OHL length of 1.34km (comprising 1.2km of OHL with the remainder being the downleads).

The Proposal

The proposal comprises a new OHL section and associated towers in order to connect the proposed An Suidhe substation (currently in planning) to the recently constructed 275 kV OHL between Inveraray and Crossaig. This will replace the section of OHL that currently connects into the existing 132 kV substation. Key elements of the proposal are:

- Construction of six new steel lattice towers (max height 57.4 m) to support the realigned overhead line which will connect into the new substation;
- Two downleads from the realigned overhead line into the substation;
- Tree and vegetation clearance where required;
- Construction of three new permanent access tracks leading to the three northern most towers:
 - One of approximately 164 m;
 - One of approximately 109 m; and

- One of approximately 14 m.
- Temporary overhead line diversions during construction; and
- Dismantling of the existing overhead line section connecting the existing 132 kV substation which comprises seven redundant towers and associated cabling.

Project Need

The OHL is proposed to link to the proposed An Suidhe substation which forms part of SSEN Transmission's Argyll and Kintyre Strategy and is required to manage the transportation of renewable energy generation from Argyll to the wider electricity network. The OHL would connect the substation into the existing 275 kV OHL from Inveraray to Crossaig. The primary driver for the An Suidhe Substation arises from a sustained increase in renewable energy generation proposals applying to connect to the Argyll and Kintyre network. Analysis of these applications, alongside an assessment of existing infrastructure has shown that the existing network capability will be exceeded. As such, reinforcement is needed to maintain compliance with the standards required of the network operator and to deliver provision for increase capacity to facilitate existing and predicted new generation connections.

The Application

The proposal is not considered an 'EIA Development' under The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017. Accordingly, there is no requirement to produce an Environmental Impact Assessment Report under the EIA Regulations. However, an Environmental Appraisal (EA) has been carried out as a non-statutory assessment to allow appropriate environmental management and mitigation measures to be identified. The Application is supported by the following documents (see Annex 1 for full list of supporting information):

- Cover Letter
- Full set of plans and drawings
- EA Report
- PAC Report

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

Redacted

Consents and Environment Manager
Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) Transmission

Annex 1 – List of Supporting Documentation

Reports

An Suidhe Substation Environmental Appraisal (EA)
An Suidhe Substation Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report

Environmental Appraisal Technical Annexes

Annex A: General Environmental Management Plans
Annex B: EIA Screening Letter
Annex C: Landscape Assessment Methodology
Annex D: Landscape Character Sensitivity Table
Annex E: Photomontages and Landscape Figures
Annex F: Ornithology Consultation
Annex G: Extended Ecology Phase 1 Habitat Survey
Annex H: Species Protection Plans
Annex I: Forestry
Annex J: Drainage Strategy and Drainage Plans
Annex K: Hydrology Methodology
Annex L: Private Water Supply Risk Assessment
Annex M: Water Construction Management Plan
Annex N: Peat Management Plan
Annex O: Peat Slide Risk Assessment
Annex P: Transformer Delivery Route Report
Annex Q: Cultural Heritage Appraisal and Site Gazetteer
Annex R: Noise and Vibration

Plans and Drawings

Figure 1a - Site Location and Context Plan
Figure 1b - Site Location Plan
Figure 2 - Site Layout Plan
Figure 3 - OHL Tower Elevations
Figure 4a - Typical Access Track Sections Sheet 1
Figure 4b - Typical Access Track Sections Sheet 2
Figure 5 - Site Access Details