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18th November 2022

Our ref: LT288/Crarae Substation

Your ref: ECU000004664

Dear Susan

Construction of three steel towers to support realignment of 330 m of the existing 275 kV Inveraray to Crossaig overhead line at both the existing Crarae substation and to connect to the proposed new Crarae substation via downleads and associated temporary diversions including five towers or masts, approximately 1.6 km north west of Minard, 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 construction of three steel towers to support realignment of 330m of the existing 275 kV Inveraray to Crossaig overhead line (OHL) at both the existing Crarae substation and to connect to the proposed new Crarae substation via downleads and associated temporary diversions including five towers or masts, approximately 1.6 km north west of Minard, Argyll and Bute.

The application fee of £360 has been paid via BACS and is based on the two OHL section lengths of 45m and 285m plus downleads to the proposed new Crarae substation (total 422m).

The Proposal

The proposal comprises construction of three steel lattice towers and sections of realigned OHL with associated temporary diversions. Key elements of the proposal are:

- Construction of two new terminal lattice steel towers (at NR 96347 97631 and NR 96392 97632) to support the connection into the new 275 kV Crarae substation including new downlead terminations (OHL length 45m plus downleads);
- Construction of one angle lattice steel tower (at NR 97171 98110) to replace the existing terminal tower at the existing 132 kV Crarae substation including realignment of the OHL (OHL length 285m);
- Five temporary towers or masts (at NR 96211 97665, NR 96385 97689, NR 96552 97687, NR 97133 98110 and NR 97129 97987) and associated temporary OHL diversions

to facilitate the build of the new towers to avoid long network outages for a period of no more than three years;

- Approximately 622 m of temporary access tracks providing access to the existing Inveraray to Crossaig overhead line (OHL);
- Dismantling of one lattice steel tower located between the two new terminal towers at the new 275 kV Crarae substation.

The existing terminal tower within the boundary of the existing 132 kV substation will also be removed.

Project Need

The proposed Crarae substation 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 line works are required to connect the proposed substation into the existing 275 kV OHL from Inveraray to Crossaig. The primary driver for the Crarae 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

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

Crarae Substation Environmental Appraisal (EA)

Environmental Appraisal Technical Annexes

Annex A: General Environmental Management Plans

Annex B: EIA Screening Request

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: Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

Annex J: Forestry Assessment

Annex K: Drainage Strategy and Drainage Plans

Annex L: Hydrology Methodology

Annex M: Private Water Supply Risk Assessment

Annex N: Water Construction Management Plan

Annex O: Peat Management Plan

Annex P: Peat Slide Risk Assessment

Annex Q: Transformer Delivery Route Report

Annex R: Cultural Heritage Appraisal and Site Gazetteer

Annex S: 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