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**Our ref:** LT289/Crossaig North Substation

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023

**Your ref:** ECU000004763

Dear Shafharia

**Construction of two steel lattice towers to support a new 372 m section of 275 kV overhead line, plus downleads, to connect the proposed Crossaig North substation to the existing 275 kV Inveraray to Crossaig overhead line and 707 m of temporary overhead line diversion with four temporary towers, approximately 8 km southwest of the village of Claonaig and approximately 6 km north of Grogport, 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 two steel lattice towers to support a new 372 m section of 275 kV overhead line, plus downleads, to connect the proposed Crossaig North substation to the existing 275 kV Inveraray to Crossaig overhead line and 707 m of temporary overhead line diversion with four temporary towers, approximately 8 km southwest of the village of Claonaig and approximately 6 km north of Grogport, Argyll and Bute. Ancillary works including access tracks and tree felling are also required.

The application fee of £720 has been paid via BACS and is based on the permanent OHL section length of 372 m and the temporary OHL section length of 707 m, plus downleads to the proposed new Crossaig North substation (total 1233 m).

### **The Proposal**

The proposal comprises installation of new permanent section of OHL with construction of two permanent steel lattice towers and installation of a section of temporary OHL diversion with construction of four temporary towers. Key elements of the proposal are:

- Construction of one new terminal lattice steel tower and one new lattice steel angle tower to support a new OHL connection from the existing Inveraray to Crossaig OHL into the new 275 kV Crossaig North substation including new downlead terminations from the terminal tower to the substation gantries;
- Four temporary towers and associated temporary OHL diversion to facilitate the build of the new towers to avoid double-circuit network outages;

- A new section of permanent access track of approximately 225 m long connecting the Crossaig North substation to the southern most proposed permanent (terminal) tower and a 25 m long track connecting the northern most proposed permanent (angle) tower to the existing track;
- A temporary access track of 134 m long, connecting the existing private forestry tracks to the northern most proposed temporary tower;
- A temporary access track of 22.7 m long connecting existing private forestry tracks to the third most southerly proposed temporary tower; and
- Dismantling of three redundant lattice steel towers, situated on entry to the existing Crossaig substation.
- Tree felling and vegetation clearance and construction areas around turbine bases.

In addition, works within the existing operational Crossaig Substation platform area will be undertaken under Permitted Development Rights, including the construction of a single storey building extension to extend the protection room and enable installation of new electrical equipment. The proposed 132 kV interconnector cables between the existing Crossaig substation and the proposed Crossaig North substation will be installed underground via Permitted Development rights.

### **Project Need**

The proposed Crossaig North 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 Crossaig North 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.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

**Louise Gunstensen**

**Consents and Environment Manager**  
**Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SEN) Transmission**

## **Annex 1 – List of Supporting Documentation**

### **Reports**

Crossaig North 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

Confidential Bird Annex

### **Plans and Drawings**

Figure 1 - Site Location and Layout Overview Plan

Figure 2 - Site Layout Plan

Figure 3 - OHL Tower Elevations

Figure 4 – Site Access Detail