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01 June 2018

Our Reference: 0110

Your Reference:

Dear Lorraine

Marine licence application for an emergency replacement submarine electricity cables between Shapinsay and Stronsay

Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution plc holds a licence under the Electricity Act 1989 for the distribution of electricity in the north of Scotland including the Islands. It has a statutory duty to provide an economic and efficient system for the distribution of electricity and to ensure that its assets are maintained to ensure security of supply to customers.

The existing 33kV submarine electricity cable from Bay of Crook in Shapinsay to Bay of Holland in Stronsay within the Orkney Isles was identified as nearing the end of its operational life and an engineering solution was proposed and consulted on between 2016 and 2018.

On Saturday 12 May 2018 at 15:08 the Shapinsay Stronsay submarine electricity cable faulted reducing the security of supply to the islands of Rousay, Westray, Eday, Sanday, Stronsay and Shapinsay, North Ronaldsay and Papa Westray.

Due to the overriding public interest to replace the Shapinsay Stronsay cable, as soon as possible, we propose to replace the cable by connecting into the existing onshore infrastructure. The cable will be initially surface laid within the marine environment and then post protected using burial; with rock bags, mattresses and split pipe used to stabilise the cable.

Inveralmond House, 200 Dunkeld Road, Perth PH1 3AQ  www.ssen.co.uk

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks is a trading name of: Scottish and Southern Energy Power Distribution Limited Registered in Scotland No. SC213459; Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc Registered in Scotland No. SC213461; Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution plc Registered in Scotland No. SC213460; (all having their Registered Offices at Inveralmond House 200 Dunkeld Road Perth PH1 3AQ); and Southern Electric Power Distribution plc Registered in England & Wales No. 04094290 having its Registered Office at 55 Vastern Road Reading Berkshire RG1 8BU which are members of the SSE Group www.ssen.co.uk

▪ **Project Description**

The cable protection designs and construction methodologies are presented in the Project Description. It also considers the seabed conditions, a risk assessment of other marine users and stakeholder feedback, whilst also providing a cost-effective approach which ensures a safe, reliable supply. It also contains the scheduling of works, construction techniques and the unexploded ordnance management strategy.

The detailed Project Description will be of interest to all parties.

▪ **Pre-application Consultation Report (appended by Cost Benefit Analysis Model)**

As part of the marine licencing process, early engagement has been undertaken with the general public and all interested stakeholders. The Pre-application Consultation Report states how their views have been considered and have influenced our approach to the design, installation and protection of the cables.

The Pre-application Consultation Report is required by the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010: Section 24; and will be of interest to Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT).

▪ **Environmental Supporting Information**

Whilst a full Environmental Impact Assessment is not required for submarine cables, Marine Scotland advises, in their Guidance for Marine Licence Applicant Version 2 June 2015 (Marine Scotland, 2015), that “applicants for marine licences for submarine cables should consider the scale and nature of their projects and give consideration to the need for a proportionate environmental assessment”.

For larger projects, where there is potential for the subsea cable to impact key environmental receptors, it is recommended by Marine Scotland (Marine Scotland, 2015), that an assessment of potential impacts on these receptors is carried out. Results from this assessment along with other relevant information about the Project should then be provided to support the Marine Licence application. This is detailed within the Environmental Supporting Information document (should be read in conjunction with the Fishing Liaison and Mitigation Action Plan) which makes a proportionate environmental assessment of the project against receptors in the vicinity of the works.

The Environmental Supporting Information document will be of interest to MS-LOT, Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Historic Environment Scotland, Shetland Islands Council and other environmental parties.

▪ **Fishing Liaison and Mitigation Action Plan covering all legitimate sea users**

An assessment of potential construction and cable asset interactions with all legitimate sea users, in the vicinity of the submarine electricity cables, was undertaken and is described in the Fishing Liaison and Mitigation Action Plan covering all legitimate sea users.

It also provides an overview of the fisheries and legitimate sea user consultation, liaison and communication strategy, engagement, safety issues and mitigation strategies. As such, it will be developed and updated through the cables' lifecycles. It will also form an audit trail, documenting that communication and liaison between us and legitimate sea users.

This document is of interest to MS-LOT, Maritime Coastguard Agency, Northern Lighthouse Board, Shetland Islands Council Marine Services and legitimate sea users.

▪ **Construction Environment Management Plan**

Mitigation measures, monitoring and reporting procedures which have been incorporated into the design and installation of the replacement cables in order to prevent or reduce adverse environmental affects as much as possible are detailed with the Construction Environment Management Plan.

This document is of interest to MS-LOT, Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Historic Environment Scotland, Shetland Islands Council and other environmental parties.

▪ **Operation, Inspection, Maintenance and Decommissioning Strategy**

The Operation, Inspection, Maintenance and Decommissioning Strategy sets out the approach to:

- Operation: following installation of the cable, connection and energisation to the network
- Inspection: the visual inspection or tracking of the cable following installation
- Maintenance: remedial works driven by condition based information or following inspections in the marine and/or land environments
- Decommissioning: follows de-energisation of the cable at the end of its operational life

This document will be of interest to MS-LOT and Shetland Islands Council.

Yours sincerely



John Buchan
Head of Subsea Cables