

Green Highland Renewables

Loch Etive Hydro Developments

Submarine Cable Marine Licence Application

Appendix 4 - Consultation

4.1 Pre-application Consultation Statement

Following discussions with Marine Scotland on the 8th of February 2017, GHR submitted documents giving details of the proposed cable installation. On the 22nd February Marine Scotland confirmed that the project is not of a class or description prescribed in Regulation 4 of The Marine Licensing (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (“the Regulations”) and as such will not require pre-application consultation. This occurs because the route length is under 1853m in length. Marine Scotland advised that GHR should still consider carrying out some early consultation to raise awareness of the project with as many loch users as possible.

4.2 Pre-consultation Report

A report was prepared to provide information for those using Loch Etive to understand the project and consider any potential impact on their activities. The Pre-consultation Report is included as Appendix 4a.

4.3 Consultees

A number of Loch users were identified and a list of consultees compiled:

[Redacted]

| No. | Organisation |
|-----|--|
| 1 | Scottish Fisheries Federation |
| 2 | Mallaig and North West Fisherman's Association |
| 3 | Northern Lighthouse Board |
| 4 | Royal Yachting Association |
| 5 | MCA |
| 6 | SEPA |
| 7 | SNH |
| 8 | Friends of Loch Etive |
| 9 | Muckairn Mussels Ltd |
| 10 | Dawnfresh Ltd |

Fig. 1 – List of Consultees

A copy of the pre-consultation report was sent out to the consultees by email on 8th April 2014. A copy of the report and the consultee list was shared with MS LOTS on 14th April 2017. Telephone calls were also held with a limited number of consultees that day. Follow up e-mails looking for responses were sent on the 23rd and 30th of May 2017.

On the 17th July 2017 [Redacted] met with [Redacted], a successful sea-angling skipper on the charter boat [Redacted] knows Loch Etive very well and his [Redacted] as pilot for the barges that use Loch Etive to extract timber for the Forestry Commission [Redacted] as quite sure the proposed cable would have no impact on those who currently use Loch Etive. The proposed crossing point was not a productive area for sea angling and both shore ends were not really suitable as yachting anchorages, there being better sheltered alternatives elsewhere in the loch.

4.4 Consultee Responses

The table below summarises the responses received.

| No. | Consultee. | Contact | Response |
|-----|----------------------------|------------|---|
| 1 | MCA | [Redacted] | E-mail response. No issues with the proposal. Mentions a boat trip operator on Loch Etive and also the forestry operations. |
| 2 | MCA | | E-mail response. No issues with the proposal. Asks that the full consultation process looks at vessel movements and seeks responses from fishermen. |
| 3 | Muckairn Mussels | | No issues with the proposal. |
| 4 | Royal Yachting Association | | No issues with the proposal. Not a popular loch for yachting and the only chartered anchorage is well to the west. |
| 5 | Northern Lighthouse Board | | No issues with the proposal but request that a yellow diamond cable beacon is erected at each shore end and the final position of the cable and the beacons are notified to the UK Hydrographic Office. Would respond to the full consultation when received in 2018. |

4.5 Discussion

Only four consultees from ten responded, despite being chased up on three occasions. Those who did respond had no issue with the proposal and it may be that others did not respond because they believed there was no impact to them. The response to the full consultation as part of the Marine License application process may be stronger. The cable will also be mentioned in the planning application with Argyll and Bute Council for the hydro schemes and that will give the proposed cable a higher profile with a broader group of parties.