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Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks
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7th February 2023

Our ref. 42362794

Your ref.

Dear Neil,

The Marine (Scotland) Act 2010
Skye - Ornsay Subsea Cable Installation

Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution plc (SHEPD) 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 a safe, secure and reliable supply to customers.

On Wednesday 25th May 2022 the SHEPD cable serving Ornsay, Skye, faulted approximately midway between Skye mainland and Ornsay. Three customers, including the Northern Lighthouse Board Ornsay lighthouse, are affected by the fault and are being supplied by temporary diesel generation which has been mobilised to the island. Replenishment of the diesel fuel tanks is taking place on a regular basis by a variety of means including helicopter due to access challenges.

The cable route lies in the marine environment for approximately 600m and it is estimated that the faulted cable was installed ~1985. SHEPD propose to undertake end to end replacement of the faulted cable utilising a similar route, which is the subject of this marine licence application. Except to facilitate installation of the new cable it is proposed to leave the existing cable in situ.

As this is a fault situation, and notwithstanding the requested licence award date of 15th May, SHEPD wish to secure the required consents as soon as possible and a contractor has been engaged with their input informing preparation of the Marine Licence supporting documents.

The marine licence application for this cable replacement is supported by a number of documents. A full list of these is provided separately but in summary they comprise:

/ CEMP

- **CEMP**

Mitigation measures, monitoring and reporting procedures which have been incorporated into the design and installation of the replacement cable in order to prevent or reduce adverse environmental affects as much as possible are detailed within the Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP). This document also includes supporting detail on the installation methods and environmental studies.

- **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

- **Stakeholder Engagement**

The requirements of Section 23 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 do not apply to this project as the cable is less than 1852m in length. A Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) report has therefore not been compiled but a summary of stakeholder engagement meetings is provided as extract minutes of meetings.

- **Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA)**

SHEPD prepare a CBA where a subsea cable proposal may have interaction with other marine users, primarily with respect to fishing stakeholders. The route of the Skye – Ormsay cable is out with any fishing interests and as such a CBA has not been prepared.

Yours sincerely

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Kevin Galbraith
Head of Subsea Cable Project Delivery