



Dr Anni Makela
Marine Scotland
Licensing Operations Team
375 Victoria Road
Aberdeen
AB11 9DB

Land and Planning
Energy Networks
Address: **Prenton Way**
Prenton
CH43 3ET

Date: **31/03/21**
Contact: **0141 6145655**
Email: [REDACTED]
Your ref:
Our Ref: *ELCD023*

Marine Licence Application

Dear Anni,

SP TRANSMISSION PLC

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 2010: PART 4 – MARINE LICENSING

APPLICATION FOR MARINE LICENCE FOR LAYING 37.5 KM HVDC SUBSEA CABLE AS PART OF THE SCOTLAND TO ENGLAND GREEN LINK 1 / EASTERN LINK 1 (“MARINE SCHEME”).

Please accept this letter and the enclosed Marine Licence application form and supporting Environmental Appraisal Report under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act, 2010. This application is submitted by SP Energy Networks on behalf of SP Transmission plc the transmission network licence holder for central and southern Scotland.

The Scotland to England Green Link 1 / Eastern Link 1 Project is being jointly managed by SP Energy Networks (SPEN) and National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET). The Project will unlock the rich renewable energy capacity of Scotland and support our drive toward our Net Zero targets in Scotland and across the rest of the UK.

The availability and source of renewable energy generated is constantly changing, therefore our network needs to be able to balance this through increased interconnection. This increased interconnection will guarantee Scotland’s security of energy supply and making the transition to net zero by 2050 is expected to generate 60,000 jobs across the

Prenton Way, Prenton, Merseyside, CH43 3ET

Registered Office: 1 Atlantic Quay, Glasgow G2 8SP. Registered in Scotland No. 215841. VAT No. GB 659 3720 08

energy sector. The Project runs from Torness in East Lothian, Scotland to Hawthorn Pit, County Durham, England.

This application is for the Scottish component of the Marine Scheme, which is part of a wider Project comprising the following components:

- **Scottish Onshore Scheme:** A converter station located in the Torness area, to the east of the Dunbar Energy Recovery Centre and a new 400kV substation at Branxton in East Lothian, Scotland, with approximately 7.5 km of buried HVDC cable to a landfall south-east of Thorntonloch Beach. The substation at Branxton was part of a separate planning application submitted to East Lothian Council in December 2021.

The converter station and substation will be connected by approximately 5 km of High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) cable. The substation connects the Project to the existing transmission system. The scope of the Scottish Onshore Scheme ends at MLWS and a separate consent application will be made to East Lothian Council.

- **Marine Scheme:** Commencing at MHWS at Thorntonloch Beach, East Lothian, approximately 176 km of subsea HVDC cable, comprising 37.5 km in Scottish waters and 138.5 km in English waters, will extend to MHWS at Seaham, County Durham. This is subject to marine licence applications (MLAs) to Marine Scotland Licensed Operations Team (MS-LOT) (this application) and to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO); and
- **English Onshore Scheme:** Commencing at MLWS approximately 10 km of underground HVDC cable will be laid from the landfall north of Seaham, west along the Sunderland City/County Durham administrative boundary and then south-west through County Durham, to a converter station at Hawthorn Pit. The converter station will be connected to a new 400 kV substation by approximately 1 km of HVAC cable. The new 400 kV substation will connect the Project to the existing 275 kV Hawthorn Pit substation and the existing electricity transmission system. This is subject to a separate consent application which will be made to Durham County Council.

The Marine Scheme comprises of two HVDC single core metallic conductors and up to two fibre optic (FO) cables and associated cable protection and crossings, which will be installed within a 500 m installation corridor, referred to in the EAR as the 'marine installation corridor'.

At the Scottish and English landfalls the cable system will be installed beneath the intertidal zone and shallow subtidal using Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD).

An Environmental Appraisal Report (EAR) is provided in support of this application. The EAR comprises three volumes:

- **Volume 1 – Non-Technical Summary.** This is readily accessible to the general public. It is concise and written in non-technical language providing a description of

the Project, in particular the Marine Scheme, and a summary of the assessment of likely significant environmental effects and proposed mitigation measures;

- **Volume 2 – Main Report.** This comprises the main text including a description of the Marine Scheme (including the alternatives considered), the baseline conditions, and appraisal of the likely significant environmental effects resulting from the Marine Scheme, and proposed measures to mitigate those effects; and
- **Volume 3 – Technical Appendices.** This comprises supporting technical information which is cross referenced throughout Volume 2.

The following table details the content of Volumes 2 and 3:

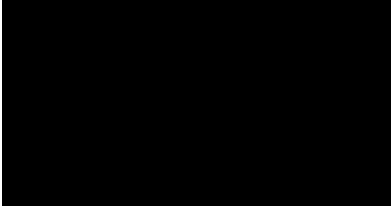
Chapter	Title	Description
Volume 2 Main Report		
01	Introduction	A general introduction to the Marine Scheme, providing a project overview and an explanation of the need for the project.
02	Project Description	A description of the activities associated with the Marine Scheme at the installation, operation and decommissioning phases.
03	Legislative and Policy Framework	A description of key relevant legislation and policy (including Marine Planning) that is considered to apply to the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Marine Scheme.
04	Approach to Environmental Appraisal	A description of the methodology used to undertake an appraisal of potential environmental effects associated with the Marine Scheme.
05	Alternatives and Design Development	A description of the evolution of the design of the Marine Scheme and the alternatives considered.
06	Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement	An overview of the consultation activities and stakeholder engagement carried out as part of the environmental appraisal process for the Marine Scheme.
07	Physical Environment	An appraisal of the potential interaction of the Marine Scheme with the physical environment.
08	Benthic Ecology	An appraisal of the potential interaction of the Marine Scheme with intertidal and subtidal benthic ecology.
09	Fish and Shellfish Ecology	An appraisal of the potential interaction of the Marine Scheme with fish and shellfish ecology.
10	Marine Mammals	An appraisal of the potential interaction between the Marine Scheme and marine mammals.
11	Ornithology	An appraisal of the potential interaction of the Marine Scheme and ornithology.
12	Marine Archaeology	An appraisal of the potential interaction of the Marine Scheme and marine archaeology.
13	Shipping and Navigation (including Navigational Risk Assessment)	An appraisal of the potential interaction of the Marine Scheme with shipping and navigation. It constitutes a full Navigational Risk Assessment (NRA), adopting appropriate NRA methodology and language in line with relevant guidance.

Chapter	Title	Description
14	Commercial Fisheries	An appraisal of the potential interaction of the Marine Scheme and commercial fisheries.
15	Other Sea Users	An appraisal of the potential interaction of the Marine Scheme and other sea users.
16	Cumulative and In-Combination Effects	An appraisal of the potential interaction of the Marine Scheme and other plans / projects.
17	Schedule of Mitigation Commitments	A table to summarise the embedded and project specific mitigation.
18	Summary and Conclusions	A summary of the outcome of the aforementioned appraisals.
Volume 3 Technical Appendices		
2.1	Eastern Link EMF and Compass Deviation Assessment	An assessment of the cables operation on compass deviations and the induced electric fields by National Grid.
3.1	Marine Plans Compliance Checklist	A checklist of the relevant marine plan policies to signpost where and how they have been considered in the EAR and to demonstrate compliance.
3.2	Topic Specific Legislation	A summary of the specific international, national and local legislation and agreements listed in each technical chapter in volume 2 relating to the development of offshore cables.
7.1	Water Framework Directive (WFD) Report	Identifies the relevant WFD groundwater and surface waterbodies located in proximity of the Marine Scheme and assesses the WFD features identified which could potentially be impacted.
8.1	Marine Protected Area and Marine Conservation Zone Assessment	A report to inform the MPA / MCZ assessment process in determining whether the Marine Scheme is capable of significantly affecting protected features of an MPA / MCZ; and / or any ecological or geomorphological process on which the conservation of any protected features of an MPA / MCZ is (wholly or in part) dependent.
8.2	Habitat Regulations Assessment Report	A report to inform the HRA assessment process in determining whether the Marine Scheme is capable of significantly affecting European sites.
12.1	Marine Archaeology Technical Report	Comprises a marine archaeological baseline study of the Marine Scheme, based on an archaeological assessment of geophysical and geotechnical data, gathered as part of the Project surveys, together with a review of records held by national and local inventories and secondary sources relating to the marine and intertidal historic environment of the region.
14.1	Report on Baseline Consultation with Fisheries Stakeholders	A summary of the baseline consultation undertaken with fisheries stakeholders by Brown & May Marine Ltd.
Other supporting documents		
NA	Eastern Link 1 – Northern Point of Connection Converter Station and Cables Pre-Application Consultation Report	The Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report prepared by SP Energy Networks in support of an application for Planning Permission in Principle (PPP) submitted under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) and an application for a marine licence submitted under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010.



Should MS LOT have any queries or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely



Claire Duffy
Land and Planning
SP Energy Networks for and on behalf of SP Transmission plc