

Scottish Hydro Electric
Transmission plc.
Inveralmond House
200 Dunkeld Road
Perth
PH1 3AQ

Licensing and Operations Team
Marine Directorate
375 Victoria Road
Aberdeen
AB11 9DB
MD.MarineLicensing@gov.scot

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REF: VARIATION TO EPS-00010441 AND BS-00010444

To whom it may concern:

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc. (SSEN Transmission) request a variation to EPS-00010441 and BS-00010444 following refinement of the marine survey corridor and potential subsea cable route associated with the Spittal to Peterhead HVDC subsea cable project.

The requested variation comprises of the addition of a vertex to the licensed boundary area associated with the above licences. This additional vertex extends the boundary area approximately 800 m to the east of the existing boundary and adds approximately 32 km² to the overall licensed area.

The marine survey corridor refinement which requires this licence variation was made in order to:

- Avoid seabed features and potential geohazards;
- Reduce the need for pre-installation seabed intervention;
- Increase the likelihood of successful burial to depth of the subsea cable; and,
- Reduce the likelihood of requiring cable protection such as rock placement.

Over a 5.5 km section, the refined marine survey corridor falls outside of the originally licensed EPS and Basking Shark Licence boundary areas. The requested variation to this boundary area would ensure that the refined marine survey corridor falls entirely within the licensed area. **Marine survey work that would be affected by the proposed licence variation is scheduled to occur from approximately November 15th, 2023.**

The variation to the licence area proposed does not change any of the assessments made in the EPS and Basking Shark Risk Assessment provided in support of EPS-00010441 and BS-00010444. All mitigation measures set out in the Risk Assessment and all conditions associated with these licences will be adhered to.

A short technical note has been provided in support of this licence variation request, in addition to the proposed refined licence boundary coordinates.

Given the relative urgency of this request, I am available to discuss any of the above on short notice, or to provide any additional information or documentation that might be required.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

for and on behalf of Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc.

Senior Marine Consents Manager