



Scottish & Southern
Electricity Networks



North of Scotland

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Neil MacLeod
Marine Scotland
Licensing Operations Team
PO Box 101
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Aberdeen
AB11 9DB

13 February 2023

Our ref. 42380242
Your ref.

Dear Neil

The Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 **Mull - Coll Nearshore works**

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.

As you are aware we recently installed a new subsea cable between Mull and Coll under Marine Licence MS-00009500. This licence expired on 4th February 2023 but urgent works still remain to be undertaken to stabilise and protect the newly installed cable in the nearshore environment. These works need to be carried out as soon as possible in order to both stabilise and protect the newly installed cable and a contractor has been engaged to undertake them. Given the nature and urgency of the works SHEPD's preferred route is to carry them out under the provisions of The Marine Licensing (Exempted Activities) (Scottish Inshore Region) Order 2011 and notwithstanding the present Marine Licence application we would again request that the above exempt activities route is utilised.

With regard to this Marine Licence application the scope relates to the nearshore and intertidal zones of the cable landfalls. We anticipate being in a position to undertake the works as early

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as 15th February and would therefore appreciate if a new licence can be expedited as quickly as possible.

The marine licence application for these works is supported by a number of documents from the earlier application which contain information and assessments relevant with respect to this more limited application . A full list of these is provided separately but in summary they comprise:

- **Project Description**

The Project Description provides details of the cable route corridor, cable design, protection measures and installation methodology.

- **Marine Environmental Appraisal**

The Marine Environmental Appraisal (MEA) which should be read in conjunction with the Fishing Liaison and Mitigation Action Plan (FLMAP). The MEA makes a proportionate environmental assessment of the project against receptors in the vicinity of the works. The supporting MEA covers the entire cable replacement project but for the present application only those section relating to the nearshore and inter-tidal areas are relevant.

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

The purpose of the FLMAP is to:

- a) Illustrate the associated risks to the commercial fisheries industry (and other legitimate sea users) and address the potential effects (highlighted in the marine licence evidence) and;
- b) Identify how to minimise and mitigate potential impacts on local communities. A summary assessment of all the potential marine interactions and activities which could influence or affect the proposed cable works are is given in Chapters 6, 7 and 8 of the FLMAP.

The FLMAP Delivery Programme sets out how the CFLO and FIR will communicate during the works and how the deliverables, set out in the Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan, will be measured and fulfilled. This document will also highlight any regional specific communication and consultation that is required, which may extend the notice period required to issue notice to mariners and communicate upcoming works. It will also highlight any ongoing issues which may arise throughout the emergency repair works.

How Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution co-exists with other marine users details how we plan to co-exist with other marine users as we carry out these works and follows on from prior consultation engagement with fishermen in 2019.

- **Construction Environment Management Plan**

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).

- **PAC Report**

Although not required for this application the PAC report from the earlier wider project licencing process has been submitted as a record of consultee engagement and comments.

Yours sincerely



Kevin Galbraith
Head of Subsea Cable Project Delivery