

Permit Receipt Centre
Natural Resources Wales
Cambria House
29 Newport Road
Cardiff
CF24 0TP

Louise Lewin
Consents Officer
National Consents Team
Louise.lewin@nationalgrid.com
Direct Tel: 07929 369588

26 October 2018

BY EMAIL

Request for Formal MARINE Screening and Scoping Opinion Under –

- **The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017 (Regulation 6 Screening and 14 Scoping).**
 - Determining Authority - Gwynedd Council and Snowdonia National Park
- **The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (Regulation 11 and Schedule 2 Screening and Regulation 13 and Schedule 4 Scoping).**
 - Determining Authority - Natural Resources Wales

Project - Visual Impact Provision (VIP), Snowdonia Project:

Proposed Tunnelling of part of the Existing Overhead Line (4ZC) and Removal of ten pylons

Following recent discussions and with respect to the EIA Regulations I hereby submit a request to Gwynedd Council, Snowdonia National Park and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) for screening and scoping directions in respect of the Visual Impact Provision (VIP), Snowdonia Project, where National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (National Grid) are proposing to underground 3km of existing overhead line and remove ten pylons. The overhead line will be undergrounded in a new tunnel to be constructed as part of the project.

Background

In early project conception, National Grid submitted a screening letter to Gwynedd Council (dated 15 December 2015) which considered two technical options for placing the section of overhead line underground.

The initial screening letter was not determined by Gwynedd Council as further information was requested. The project has now been further developed and further information is now provided in the attached Screening and Scoping Report. The report is intended to facilitate further discussion between National Grid and determining authorities to ensure all areas of concern are identified, prior to further environmental studies being undertaken.

As a result of further technical studies and stakeholder engagement the two initial options have now been discounted.

Proposed Project

The Proposed Project comprises the undergrounding of a 3km section of the existing 4ZC line between pylons 27 to 37 using a tunnel from National Grid's existing Garth sealing end compound (SEC) to Cilfor on the eastern side of the Dwyrdd Estuary. The application now also includes the removal of the ten pylons throughout the length of the project, of which three pylons fall within the marine environment and jurisdiction of NRW, and so they are also included within this request for an opinion.

The proposed works and area are shown in Figure 2.1 in the screening and scoping report. The individual work elements required for the project are set out below.

Conclusion

The Proposed Project does not obviously fall within any of the categories of development outlined in Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations and Marine EIA Regulations. However, consideration has been given as to whether the Project may give rise to significant environmental effects, such that an EIA may be required. Although the removal of Pylons 4ZC030 (and the foundations of the previous 4ZC030) and 4ZC031 fall within a statutory designated site, based on studies and consultation undertaken to date, National Grid is of the opinion that the Project does not constitute formal EIA development.

Based on the assumption that the proposed Project is not EIA development, the project will comprise of a number of distinct elements which fall under several different planning jurisdictions and National Grid is of the opinion that the works described fall under the consenting regimes set out in Appendix 1 of this letter.

National Grid proposes to prepare an Environmental Report to accompany the planning application for the Project. The Environmental Report would cover all elements of the Project commensurate with that of a formal Environmental Statement demonstrating how it intends to meet its environmental responsibilities.

Action requested from the Local Authorities and NRW

National Grid therefore requests a joint screening and scoping opinion, from Gwynedd Council and Snowdonia National Park, in consultation with NRW, within eight weeks following the receipt of this letter in accordance with Part 4, Regulation 14 (4) of the EIA Regulations.

We also request that, if the opinion of Gwynedd Council and Snowdonia National Park is that formal EIA is not required, we would welcome the Council's confirmation of the consenting regime, as noted within Appendix 1, of work either by virtue of the rights granted by the various parts of Schedule 2 of the General Permitted Development Order 1995 or in the original planning application granted under the Electricity Act 1947/57.

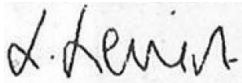
Action requested from NRW

National Grid therefore requests a screening and scoping opinion from NRW, in consultation with the Lead Authority, Gwynedd Council, within eight weeks, to confirm or otherwise, our view that a statutory Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is not required for the removal of pylons (4ZC030 and 4ZC031), foundations of the old 4ZC030 and access to a third (4ZC032), within the marine jurisdictions of the project.

We also request that, if the opinion of NRW is that formal EIA is not required, we would welcome NRW's confirmation of the consenting regime, as noted within Appendix 1, of work granted by the original planning application under the Electricity Act 1947/57.

Please contact me using the above contact information if you require any further information or have any questions regarding the content of this submission.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Lewin', is shown on a light-colored background.

Louise Lewin - Consents Officer

Enclosed:

Appendix 1 – Consenting Regime
Scoping Report