



The Mountaineering Council of Scotland

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Please reply by email to david@mcofs.org.uk

Roslyn Keenan
Admin Officer
Local Energy and Consents
The Scottish Government

Sent by email to EconsentsAdmin@gov.scot

9 December 2015

Dear Sir

**THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND)
REGULATIONS 2000
SECTION 37 APPLICATION FOR THE PROPOSED KNOCKNAGAEI TO TOMATIN 275KV
OVERHEAD LINE**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the above application for planning permission. We are pleased to provide our response below.

We appreciate that any 275kV OHL is a National Development and therefore the granting of planning permission is a foregone conclusion. Necessarily that means granting permission for temporary construction roads.

In this context the Mountaineering Council of Scotland has grave concerns about how 'temporary' the temporary construction roads will be. After much controversy, the Beauldy-Denny OHL was approved by the Scottish Government with conditions which required the removal and reinstatement of all temporary access roads. Subsequently we have seen multiple applications for retention throughout its length, almost all of which have been rubber-stamped by local planning authorities, leading to extensive lengths of 'temporary' road being retained (albeit narrowed).

Our strongly held view is that the planning permission for the OHL must include a condition that all access roads approved as temporary must be reinstated after the construction period and that no application for retention can be made to the local planning authority, but must be directed to the Scottish Government, which will entertain such an application only if a compelling case for retention can be made.

Yours sincerely

David Gibson
Chief Executive Officer