



The Granary
West Mill Street
Perth PH1 5QP
Tel: 01738 493 942

By email to
Econsents_Admin@gov.scot

FAO Ms Angela Doris
Case Officer
Energy Consents Unit
Scottish Government

16th April 2019

Dear Ms Doris

**ELECTRICITY ACT 1989
THE ELECTRICITY (APPLICATIONS FOR CONSENT) REGULATIONS 1990**

**SECTION 37 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT 1989 - INSTALL A 132KV WOODPOLE OVERHEAD
LINE AT QUOICH TO ABERCHALDER.
ECU Reference: ECU00001772**

Introduction

We welcome the opportunity to comment on issues to be considered in the environmental impact assessment of the proposed 132kV woodpole overhead line from Quoich to Aberchalder by Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc. Mountaineering Scotland assesses proposed developments in terms of their impact on Scotland's mountain assets and the mountaineering experience. This mainly means visual impact and this is the focus of our response.

Mountaineering Scotland is a membership organisation with over 13,000 members and is the only recognised representative organisation for hill walkers, climbers, mountaineers and ski-tourers who live in Scotland or who enjoy Scotland's mountains, and acts to represent, support and promote Scottish mountaineering. Mountaineering Scotland also acts on behalf of the 80,000 members of the British Mountaineering Council (BMC) on matters related to landscape and access in Scotland, and provides training and information to mountain users to promote safety, self-reliance and the enjoyment of our mountain environment.

Specific comments

Mountaineering Scotland generally agrees with the conclusions reached in the Environmental Appraisal regarding the landscape and visual impacts. The existing steel lattice tower infrastructure in the landscape reduces adverse impacts of the woodpole line.

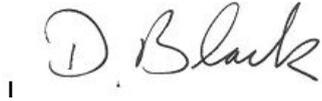
Hillwalkers may be characterised as a very sensitive receptor for visual impact, enjoying both exercise and the landscape. From the more elevated positions overlooking the route new access tracks may become a feature in the landscape, and it is important to state that all new access tracks be removed or if a track existed prior to construction, then it be restored to the original specification.

We are aware of other developments in which temporary construction tracks have after completion

become permanent features in the landscape despite statements in to the contrary in Environmental Statements. We would expect an Ecological Clerk of Works to oversee initial ground preparation works for storage of turves and soils, and to ensure that reinstatement or removal of tracks is completed to the satisfaction of The Highland Council.

We hope that you find these comments helpful in your consideration of this proposal.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Black". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'D'.

Davie Black
Access & Conservation Officer
Mountaineering Scotland