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By email

Lesley Tosun
Senior Case Officer
Energy Consents Unit
Scottish Government
150 Broomielaw
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25 January 2018

Dear Ms Tosun

**ELECTRICITY ACT 1989
THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017
REQUEST FOR SCOPING OPINION FOR PROPOSED SECTION 37 APPLICATION FOR LAIRG TO LOCH BUIDHE
132kV OVERHEAD LINE REINFORCEMENT**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the scoping opinion request.

We note that the route proposed appears to be none of the original 4 routes proposed, but the pylons should be smaller as it is a 132kV line.

Our main concern relates to the effective reinstatement of the temporary works and associated tracks and note from the project website that SSEN "is assessing the impacts associated with its proposals and investigating options to eliminate, reduce or mitigate these impacts."

We welcome this commitment as we believe that SSEN have demonstrably failed elsewhere to reinstate temporary tracks as required by planning permission and associated constraints. We have photographic evidence showing tracks removed by ploughing as opposed to the replacement of sub-soil, top-soil and turfs.

We are therefore sceptical of SSEN's statements regarding this matter and would stress to the Minister that such re-instatement must be done to the standard SSEN have themselves laid out in the scoping report. Such care in this matter should extend to all areas where re-instatement is required, including for example temporary construction compounds.

Yours sincerely

David Gibson
CEO, Mountaineering Scotland