



The Mountaineering Council of Scotland

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

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

Neil Anderson
Corporate Affairs
Inveralmond House
200 Dunkeld Road
Perth, PH1 3AQ

24 February 2015

Dear Mr Anderson

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Stronelaig Wind Farm Grid Connection: Pre-Application Consultation, February 2015

This letter is our response to your request for your feedback on your proposals ahead of submitting a planning application in April 2015.

We are looking to connect the wind farm to the transmission network using a new 'Gas Insulated Switchgear' (GIS) Substation located 2km west of Garva Bridge. Do you have any comments or proposals relating to our preferred location and/or use of a GIS substation technology?

We continue to disagree with the principle of further industrial activity in this location. While we understand there are difficulties with sites in the Fort Augustus or Foyers area we believe that the continuing need to connect wind capacity around Forth Augustus and the western Monadhliath to the grid will mean that these difficulties will have to be faced at some point regardless of the outcome of the current decision on connecting Stronelaig.

It is our understanding that planning conditions require the removal of the temporary Beauuly-Denny construction road once construction is complete. Yet it is shown as being the access route (presumably permanent) for the proposed substation. This implies that it is the intention, contrary to national planning conditions, to retain the construction road.

We are already thoroughly disillusioned with developers' intentions regarding the retention of large stretches of the supposedly temporary B-D construction tracks, with local authorities setting aside the conditions attached when national planning approval was given.

We consider that this situation reflects poorly on the reputation of SSE and your industry.

If a substation is to be built in the location proposed, then the smaller the footprint, the better. GIS also has the benefit of low noise output.

We are looking at a single option (underground cable) to connect the wind farm to a new grid substation. Do you have any comments or proposals relating to our proposed cable route and/or use of underground cable technology?

If a substation is built in this location then we would rather see an underground connection than an overhead line connection.

We do have very serious concerns about the ability of SSE to achieve the quality of surface restoration needed.

Yours sincerely

David Gibson
Chief Officer