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12th April 2018

Malcolm Thomson, Esq.
Transmission Land Officer
SP Energy Networks
Ochil House
10 Technology Avenue
Hamilton International Technology Park
Blantyre
G72 0HT

Dear Mr Thomson,

I am writing to you to request more information on SPEN’s energy transmission plans for Dumfries and Galloway and express my dissatisfaction at how SPEN and the Scottish Government have implemented their energy strategy thus far.

SPEN originally planned to upgrade the transmission network across the whole of Dumfries and Galloway with the Strategic Reinforcement Project. It has since been scaled back and replaced with many smaller projects, one of which is the Kendoon to Tongland Reinforcement Project (KTR).

I strongly believe SPEN should be more explicit with their planning approach. By dividing up the project into numerous smaller projects, across several communities, it obscures the true geographical scope of the work that will be taking place and conceals the environmental and economic cost to Dumfries and Galloway.

Many windfarms and overhead pylon lines have now received, or are awaiting, planning consent in Dumfries and Galloway. I understand SPEN has a statutory duty to provide a transmission to connect these sites to the grid and I would like to know how SPEN proposes to do this.

Can you please provide me with the locations of the pylon lines that will be needed to connect the following windfarms in Dumfries and Galloway to the grid?

* Benbrack Wind Farm
* Pencloe Wind Farm
* South Kyle
* Blackcraig Hill
* Ewe Hill
* Cluden to Lochfoot
* Kilgallioch
* Windy Standard Phase III
* Stranoch
* Windy Standard III
* North Lowther Energy Initiative (NLEI)
* Stranoch 2 Wind Farm
* Troston Loch

Additionally, 11 overhead pylon lines have been consented. Can you provide me with the route of each line and confirm if they connect to the proposed KTR?

* South West Scotland Renewables Connection Project: Proposed Black Hill Substation - Meikle Hill Substation - "Part B"
* South West Scotland Renewables Connection Project: Glenglass Substation - Proposed Black Hill Substation - "Part C"
* Gretna to Ewe Hill (Part B)
* Anglo-Scottish Interconnector, Bearholm - Deviation of existing line
* Blackcraig and Margree Wind Farms Connection Project - Part A
* Blackcraig and Margree Wind Farms Connection Project - Part B
* Blackcraig and Margree Wind Farms Connection Project - Part C
* Airies Wind Farm to Newton Stewart Substation
* Barr Farm Cottage - 011/17-18
* Bogside Cottage, Lockerbie 67922 OHL Rebuild
* Sandy Knowe Wind Farm Connection

Finally, I understand a cabling consultant has been appointed for the KTR. Can you confirm this is the case and who the cabling consultant is?

I have personally witnessed the ambiguity surrounding the wider energy strategy causing significant problems for the community. Just recently, after enjoying their stay in my holiday cottage, a British family living in Bogota were looking to move to Dumfries and Galloway. They viewed a house near St John’s Town of Dalry but upon learning that there may be plans to build a wind farm nearby (and further potential for the associated pylons to be placed in the vicinity) they said there were no longer interested in purchasing the property.

SPEN and the Scottish Government need to be aware that they are negatively affecting people’s lives. In order for the people of Dumfries and Galloway to plan their futures we need to have clarity on the energy plans for the whole of the region. It is not acceptable for SPEN to continue to operate as they have been, they must treat the residents with respect and offer up this information freely.

I hope you’re able to address these issues. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Paul