



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Mr John O'Reilly
Southern Electric Power Distribution
Via email

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Our ref: 1575U
Your ref: JO/MILA E2L5 LV Poles

10 July 2023

Dear Mr O'Reilly,

**SCREENING DECISION BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE UNDER THE
ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT)
(ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2017 ("THE 2017
REGULATIONS")**

**NAME OF SCHEME: MILA E2L5 11KV CIRCUIT - LV POLES AVON VALLEY
SSSI**

Screening decision covering an application for a proposed development ("the proposed development") to:

- Replace four wooden poles supporting a low voltage overhead electricity line.

The Secretary of State has considered the factors set out in Schedule 3 of the 2017 Regulations, together with the information within the supplied documentation ("the Application") by Southern Electric Power Distribution ("the Applicant") in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of New Forest District Council ("the LPA"). In particular, in reaching his decision the Secretary of State notes the following factors:

1. The proposed development does not fall within Schedule 1 (mandatory EIA);



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

2. The proposed development falls under Schedule 2 of the 2017 Regulations as the electricity line is to be installed above ground in a sensitive area;
3. The proposed development is to replace four wooden poles supporting an overhead electricity line which is located within the Avon Valley (Bickton to Christchurch) Site of Special Scientific Interest (“the SSSI”) and the Avon Valley Ramsar site (“the Ramsar site”). The overhead line is on the edge of the SSSI and Ramsar site next to a road. The Ramsar site has been given its designation due to the range of habitats found in the River Avon which is away from the road where the proposed development is.
4. The Applicant has consulted the LPA and Natural England on the proposed development and received no comments or objections.

Taking account of the abovementioned factors and information received, the Secretary of State concludes that the proposed works are not EIA development under the 2017 Regulations and do not require a statutory EIA as they are unlikely to have significant effects on the environment due to their nature, location and size. A copy of this letter has been sent to the LPA for information.

Yours sincerely,

John McKenna
Energy Infrastructure Planning