



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 1657u

Your ref: Reading/EVX116

23 October 2023

Dear Mr Brocklehurst,

**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: Reading/EVX116

Screening decision for a proposed development (“the proposed development”):

- Upgrade 4 spans of an existing 11kv network from 2 wire to 3 wire

The proposed development requires Section 37 consent under the Electricity Act 1989 and are subject to the 2017 Regulations.

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 SSE (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (“the LPA”). In reaching his decision, the Secretary of State notes the following factors:

1. The proposed development does not fall within Schedule 1 (mandatory EIA);
2. The proposed development falls under Schedule 2 of the 2017 Regulations as the electricity line is to be installed above ground near a sensitive area.
3. In October 2022, the LPA was consulted and responded that they did not have any objections to the development.

4. The development is located near a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) therefore Natural England were consulted for their opinion on the development's impact on the SSSI. In October 2023 they responded and did not note any comments or objections regarding the development.

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

Head of Network Planning team

Energy Infrastructure Planning