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Our ref: 1602U

Your ref: JM/MW755815

6 October 2023

Dear Mr Maloney,

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: MW755815 LLANFAIRFECHAN - MINFFORDD 33KV OHL REBUILD

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

• Rebuild an existing 33 kilovolt (KV) 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 SP Manweb ("the Applicant") in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of Eryri National Park Authority ("the LPA"). In particular, in reaching the 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 in a sensitive area;

- 3. The proposed development is partially located within Eryri National Park as well as the Coedydd Aber Site of Special Scientific Interest ("SSSI") and the Coedydd Aber Special Area of Conservation ("SAC"), Eryri SSSI and Eryri SAC.
- 4. The applicant commissioned an ecological survey to be carried out along the route of the overhead line. The survey results identified that the applicant will need to carry out an appropriate assessment on the works which are taking place in the SAC. The ecological report also identifies various habitats and species which can be found near the overhead line. The ecological report also makes recommendations with regards to the possibility of requiring an appropriate assessment to be carried out for the SAC. Natural Resources Wales were consulted on the proposed development and granted assent for the works and made recommendations about the work methods which the applicant will use.

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 Energy Infrastructure Planning