



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Claire Duffy
SP Manweb PLC
3 Prenton Way
North Cheshire Trading Estate
Prenton
CH43 3ET

Energy Infrastructure Planning
3-8 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2JP
Email: S37consents
@energysecurity.gov.uk
Website: www.gov.uk/desnz

Our ref: 1587u
Your ref: AJ/E97338

07 November 2023

Dear Mrs Duffy,

**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: NEW 11KV OHL AT RHYD Y FEN, ARENIG, BALA

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

- Erect approximately 770m of single phase overhead lines supported by wooden poles with a nominal voltage of 11kV

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 SP Manweb (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of Snowdonia National Park Authority (“the LPA”). In reaching her 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 development is located within Snowdonia National Park in the Migneint-Arenig-Dduallt Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Protection Area (SPA), hence, the applicant produced an Ecological Appraisal and Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) in May 2021. The report and the CEMP included a list of mitigation measures such as scheduling all vegetation clearance during the period between September and February to avoid bird breeding season.
4. Furthermore, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) were consulted and responded in January 2022 (Document Reference: CAS-178128-B8G0Eich). NRW did not object to the development but advised the applicant should adhere to pollution prevention guidelines, the applicant stated in their CEMP they would abide by these guidelines whilst working near watercourses.
5. In March 2022, the LPA produced a report assessing the effects of the development, which suggested that since the majority of the new line will run close to existing electricity lines, the line would not cause any significant visual harm.
6. In July 2022, the LPA was consulted regarding the development and stated they had no objections to 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