



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Will Hopkins
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Our ref: 1665u
Your ref: NC78693

10 November 2023

Dear Mr Hopkins,

**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: Hexham, East Warmley

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

- Divert an existing 20kV overhead line due to risk of collapse as a result of river erosion

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 Northern Powergrid (Northeast) Limited (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of the Northumberland County Council (“the LPA”). In particular, in reaching her decision the Secretary of State notes the following factors:

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



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2. The proposed development falls within a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) related to the Wharmley Riverside SSSI which is approximately 900 metres away from the proposed development.
3. Natural England were consulted regarding the IRZ and had no comment to make as per communication with the Applicant on 7 September 2020.
4. The LPA was consulted and had no objection to the proposed 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
Energy Infrastructure Planning