



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Miss Zara Duncan
National Grid Electricity Distribution (South West) Plc
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Energy Infrastructure Planning

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19 April 2024

Dear Miss Duncan,

**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: OKEHAMPTON VP LINE

Decision:

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.

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

- Add a third conductor to 7500 metres of an existing 11 kV overhead line

Secretary of State considerations:

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 National Grid Electricity Distribution (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of West Devon Borough 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);
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 falls within several designated sensitive areas:
 - North Devon Biosphere Reserve
 - A Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) associated with North Dartmoor SSSI
4. The LPA were consulted regarding the proposed development and noted no objection to the development on 5 April 2022 (planning reference: 0619/22/COL).
5. Natural England were consulted regarding the Biosphere Reserve designation and noted no objection via email correspondence on 14 March 2024.

Yours sincerely,

John McKenna
Head of Network Planning team
Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery Team