



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Matthew Norris
Southern Electric Power Distribution PLC
Walton Road
Drayton
Portsmouth
PO6 1UJ

Energy Infrastructure Planning

3-8 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2JP

Email:

S37consents@energysecurity.gov.uk

Website: www.gov.uk/desnz

Our ref: 1986u
Your ref: MN- 33kVNI-MANN-MILA 2

11 September 2024

Dear Mr Norris,

**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: 33kV NI MANN-MILA

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:

- Replace 2 x existing 33kV wood poles on a like-for-like basis (P13 & P16)



Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

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 Southern Electric Power Distribution PLC (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of Dorset 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 in a sensitive area.
3. The proposed development falls within the Moors River System Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).
4. The Applicant consulted with the LPA who had no objection to the proposed development and concluded that the proposed development is unlikely to have significant environmental effects (reference: P/STA/2024/00707).
5. The Applicant supplied an Assent Request to Natural England (date 8 May 2024) which outlined the methods and mitigations to be used throughout the proposed development. As a result, Natural England issued unconditional assent on 23 May 2024 for the proposed development to be carried out between 1 September 2024 and 28 February 2025 (reference: 0805241422NG).
6. An ecology survey was carried out at the site of the proposed development on 24 July 2024 and the subsequent “Ecological Constraints Report” was issued by RSK ADAS Ltd on 8 August 2024 (reference: BRT69105-1377(00)). The report identified the potential for several protected species to be present, including reptiles, nesting birds, bats, water vole, hazel dormouse, and otter, and that pole ‘P16’ is partially located within unmanaged hedgerow which contains several mature trees.



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

7. The “Ecological Constraints Report” outlines mitigation measures to minimise the likelihood of impacting on protected species and the tree roots of mature trees – these mitigation measures will be followed by the Applicant during the proposed development.

Yours sincerely,

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