



**Scottish and Southern  
Energy**

Power Distribution

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10th October 2011

Dear Sir/Madam,

**CONSULTATION ON ORKNEY - CAITHNESS 132KV TRANSMISSION CONNECTION**

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Ltd (SHETL) has published a Consultation Document asking for views on a possible electricity connection between the west coast of mainland Orkney and Caithness. The Consultation Document can also be viewed and an electronic copy downloaded at [www.sse.com/OrkneyCaithness](http://www.sse.com/OrkneyCaithness)

The connection is needed to accommodate the tidal and wave renewable developments associated with the Pentland Firth and Orkney Water Round 1 Development sites for which Crown Estate leases have been agreed. Since the potential energy produced is greater than that needed on Orkney, to utilise the potential of these renewable developments the energy produced needs to be connected to the national transmission network.

A new substation is needed on Orkney to accept the connections from the renewable developers wishing to connect to the scheme. The energy would then be transmitted at 132,000 volts via a buried cable to a landfall on the Orkney mainland coast from where it will then pass subsea across the Pentland Firth to a Caithness landfall, from where the transmission line would be connected to Dounreay substation, again by buried cable.

As a result of studies already undertaken we currently have preferred options for the new Orkney substation site, cable connection route, Orkney landfall, subsea cable route, Caithness landfall, and connecting cable route to Dounreay substation. It is this preferred transmission connection and a number of 'alternative' options we are taking forward to consultation, although subject to further studies and feedback the design may subsequently be revised.

Following this consultation exercise we will assess all comments received and then identify a proposed connection option. Applications for consent to build the infrastructure would be submitted after the completion of environmental studies and detailed engineering.

As stated in the enclosed Consultation Document, we are holding a consultation exhibition to provide members of the public with an opportunity to learn more about the project and to provide feedback on the proposals. The exhibition will comprise of display boards and members of the project team will be present to answer questions and to receive comments.

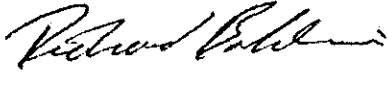
These exhibitions will be held at:

**Harray Community Hall, Harray, Orkney**  
**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2011**  
**2pm – 7pm**

Please feel free to contact me should you wish a paper copy of the consultation document.

We have asked for comments by Friday **2<sup>nd</sup> December 2011**. I look forward to receiving any comments which you might have.

Yours sincerely

PP 

Lisa Kelly  
Community Liaison Manager