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National Grid ESO response to Ofgem's consultation on Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission's proposed Skye Dynamic Line Rating Medium Sized Investment Project

Dear Jack,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the consultation on Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission's (SHE's) proposed Skye Dynamic Line Rating (DLR) Medium Sized Investment Project (MSIP).

As the Electricity System Operator (ESO) for Great Britain, we are in a privileged position at the heart of the energy system, balancing electricity supply and demand second by second. As the UK moves towards its 2050 net zero target, our mission is to enable the sustainable transformation of the energy system and ensure the delivery of reliable, affordable energy for all consumers.

We use our unique perspective and independent position to facilitate market-based solutions which deliver value for consumers. We support the consultation and Ofgem's preferred position for the Skye DLR project.

The 132 kV Skye circuit between Edinbane and Broadford is part of the Skye transmission circuit connecting Fort Augustus on the mainland to Ardmore on the Isle of Skye. The dynamic line rating scheme here could offer an interim solution over a 2-year period to allow the export of higher volume of generation through the Skye network before the planned upgrade of that circuit¹. Based on the report sent to SSEN-T from the CBA conducted by the ESO in 2020, the ESO's recommendation was to not proceed with DLR scheme. The input data for this was based on the FES 2019 generation and the power flows here were not seen to exceed the capability of the circuits frequently or by sufficient volume to recommend this scheme to be built. The ESO does not believe that this will provide value to the end consumer and therefore we do not support this proposal.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss any of the points raised within this response. Should you require further information or clarity please contact Griffin John, Technical Economics Assessment Manager, griffin.john@nationalgrideso.com in the first instance. Our response is not confidential.

Yours sincerely

Dr Paul Wakeley

Strategic Network Development Senior Manager

¹ <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications/isle-skye-decision-projects-initial-needs-case-and-its-suitability-competition>