

GB Transmission Investment Options study

National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)

Scottish Power Transmission (SPT)

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Ltd (SHETL)

What is the study about?

- A joint study by the three GB transmission licensees
- Two questions being addressed:
 - What level of renewables is the GB system good for without major new circuits (whether onshore or offshore)?
 - What are the further investment options to accommodate the level of renewables that would meet 2020 targets?

What does it cover/not cover?

- Does cover;
 - Identification of generation/demand scenarios
 - Building on known committed reinforcement investments.
 - Comparison of subsequent reinforcement options on the basis of cost, effectiveness, environmental impact and timeliness.
- Does not cover;
 - Regulatory, licensing and funding arrangements

Organisation and reporting

- Work initiated by the three transmission licensees and to be overseen by a Project Working Group of the ENSG
- First report scheduled for end Sept 2008
- Follow-up work between Oct 2008 and Jan 2009 to test the sensitivity of conclusions to the outcome of GB SQSS review and TAR.

Interim comments

- For the levels of renewable generation projected to meet 2020 targets and beyond, additional circuits (whether onshore or offshore) are almost certain to be required against prevailing standards.
- Early initiation of pre-development work will be beneficial given long lead times for both onshore and offshore circuits.
- There is good regional potential for reinforcement of the existing onshore system in specific areas without new overhead lines or subsea cables, although these need to be considered in the context of the GB-wide study.
- Deliverable onshore upgrades need to continue if renewables are to continue connecting in the meantime, and would still be needed when new on/offshore circuits are completed.
- Investments are sensitive to plant closure, demand, location and disposition of renewable generation assumptions.