Consultion response from S & J D Robertson Group Ltd proposed HVDC connection to reinforce the network in Caithness

Consultation questions

1. Do you consider SHE Transmission's proposed standalone subsea cable project to reinforce the transmission system in northern Scotland is an appropriate option for consumers at this stage? Please explain the reasons behind your views.
2. What are your views on the timing and scale of SHE Transmission's proposed subsea link to reinforce the transmission system in the Caithness Moray area?
3. What are your views on the future costs of generation constraints in northern Scotland?
4. What are your views on the potential wider benefits of SHE Transmission's proposed subsea link? How should wider benefits be measured and evaluated in the Needs Case assessment for a proposed transmission project?
5. Do you consider we (and our consultants) have identified the relevant issues to the Needs Case assessment for SHE Transmission's proposal? Are there any other factors you think we should examine in order to inform our views on the proposed reinforcement?
6. Do you have any other comments on our initial views set out in this letter?

If you would like to respond to the Ofgem consultation, please email your response to:

•Name: Anna Kulhavy or Adam Lacey

•Email: SWW@ofgem.gov.uk

Answers

(1). The consumers have chosen a Government that wishes to develop renewable technology, which will align themselves with European targets to reduce carbon output. The current network for transmission and distribution is unable to meet these goals. In Orkney we are unable to attach any more renewable

power without this reinforcement. This reinforcement will allow consumers to reach their government goals and protect themselves from climate change.

(2). I think the timings regarding the proposed sub-sea link is that it cannot happen soon enough. I am going into planning for a 21 MW on-shore wind project on the Island of Fara which will need this reinforcement to deliver its power to market, assuming that Orkney is then connect to this reinforcement. I know of at least 7 MW of on-shore wind that has planning (1.8 MW of my own on-shore wind and 200 kw solar that cannot get a grid connection until there is reinforcements).

(3). The cost to Orkney for future generation costs is that there is in the region of 5 MW of turbines unable to operate due to there being not enough capacity on the network, couple with the 7 MW of on shore wind unable to connect, would give 12 MW, which would give lost revenue of circa £5m per yr. There are other projects going into planning, along with the 21 MW Fara project which would also be lost income.

(4). I believe that there could be up to 80 MW of additional on-shore wind capacity developed in Orkney if there was capacity on the grid. This could bring in £28m to the Orkney community, this would be twice the size of the current Tourist market.

(5). I would hope that you would see the benefit to Orkney from an additional 80 MW on-shore wind and hundreds of MW of wave and tidal turbines would bring to Orkney if it had a proper connection. The development of the technology is being hindered by operators not having enough grid capacity to test their machines. So companies have left Orkney because of this. This is not a good thing.

(6). There needs to be a connection to Orkney from this Caithness reinforcement, the additional cost for this to happen should be more than paid back by the additional renewable output gained from Orkney.