

James Norman
Head of New Transmission Investment

Interconnector Cable Ref No 2020/011/WL

Dear Mr Norman

Please find our following response to the Shetland Transmission Project.

Since the VEWf was unsuccessful in the 2019 CfD auction we do not believe that this is an appropriate time to be considering approval.

The CMP competition proxy model.

The financial costs of the windfarm is far too high and obviously uneconomic.

We disagree that there is potential for the development of additional renewable generation on Shetland given that it has a significantly small landmass and the result would be a huge island windfarm.

As was stated at the consultation any future generation on Shetland beyond the VEWf project continues to remain uncertain. We feel strongly that this must be taken into consideration otherwise approval is based on a gamble.

We have noticed the FNA delivery costs of a link per capacity are only estimates. We are all aware that estimates are seldom lower than the actual cost. This was made quite clear at 2.30 - 2.32.

As the site at Kergord would need more space than is currently available we would expect any alteration would have to be passed by the planning department despite what SHE-T may say.

We are not satisfied that approval for the 600MW link should be given as there is still uncertainty about the VEWf going ahead.

It is questionable whether or not the financial factors have been appropriately assessed considering the consultation is full of estimates only.

Since Shetland's situation is vastly different to any other parts of Scotland and the Western Isles we believe any comparison with this to be fundamentally wrong.

Additional factors which must be taken into consideration with the transmission project are the remoteness and extremely changeable weather in Shetland. There is considerable marine activity here providing work for local people and this will be put in jeopardy.

In the light of the Covid pandemic long term market rates are uncertain and any decision on the project should not be made until there is financial security given that all the figures are on possibilities or estimates. The project is therefore based on assumption.

There are now alternative plans for an island friendly alternative.

This LPG power station will be far more environmentally friendly and definitely more appropriate for a small island. especially as it would address fuel poverty and CO2 emissions.

We cannot see how having this project go ahead would be the best deal for consumers when the wind industry this year up until 16th April has been paid £98,381,678 to shut down in order to not produce electricity and overload the National Grid. We feel the last thing the Grid needs is more intermittent and unreliable power.

As two pensioners living in relative fuel poverty the recent significant increase to our energy bill at £4.00 more a week is an added strain to our financial situation.

Therefore we believe the alternative LPG power station must be taken into account when assessing the proposed transmission link

Yours sincerely