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Sent by Email: PEDW.Casework@gov.wales

Bristol, 2024-03-20

Our reference: 65208073-001 Rhiwlas Grid Connection EIA Scoping

Request for a Scoping Direction under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017

Dear Sir / Madam

Green Generation Energy Networks Cymru Limited (Green GEN Cymru) (The Applicant), a business within the Bute Energy Group, is developing proposals to construct and operate a new 132 kilovolt (kV) grid connection, which at this stage is proposed to be an overhead line (OHL) supported on wood poles as well as a section of 33kV underground cabling (the proposed development).

From the Rhiwlas Energy Park substation (approximately 2km east of Llangurig), a 132kV OHL is proposed to connect to a collector substation adjacent to the proposed Llyn Lort Energy Park, approximately 25 km to the northeast. The proposed development will also provide a 33kV underground cable connection between the proposed Banc Du and Rhiwlas Energy Parks (approximately 3 km in length). The proposed development lies entirely within within Powys County Council.

The proposed development comprises a 'Development of National Significance' (DNS) in accordance with the Planning (Wales) Act 2015 as an infrastructure development project of national importance to Wales.

The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) are the pertinent regulations for identifying whether the proposed development is 'EIA development' and whether an Environmental Statement (ES) is required to accompany the application.

The proposed development does not fall under the description of Schedule 1 development, as defined by the EIA Regulations, which would automatically require an EIA. The proposed development also does not fall under the description of a Schedule 2 development, whereby the development would have to meet specific criteria or exceed thresholds to require an EIA.

The Applicant is of the view that the proposed development does have the potential to result in significant environmental effects. In line with Schedule 3 of and Regulation 5(2)(a) of the EIA Regulations, Green GEN Cymru has decided

to undertake an EIA for the proposed development and an ES will therefore be provided as part of the DNS application.

Regulation 33 of the EIA Regulations makes provision for obtaining a Scoping Direction from Welsh Ministers on the information to be included in the ES. This letter is the Applicant's formal request for a scoping direction in accordance with the EIA Regulations and is accompanied by a Scoping Report, outlining the proposed scope of the EIA and providing the necessary information as required in Regulation 33(2).

A dedicated project website has also been established at <https://rhiwlasgen.wales/> that will be regularly updated with further information about the proposed development as it becomes available.

Several public consultation events have already taken place and further non-statutory and statutory consultations are planned ahead of the submission of the DNS application, anticipated to be in Q4 2025.

Should any further information be required please do not hesitate to contact me and we look forward to receiving the Scoping Direction within 8 weeks of this request in accordance with 33(7)(b) of the EIA Regulations.

We have also sent a copy of this letter and the documents that accompany the scoping request to Powys County Council as the relevant local planning authority in accordance with Regulation 33(3) of the EIA Regulations.

Yours faithfully

Richard Kent
Technical Manager, Environment & Sustainability

cc. planning.services@powys.gov.uk

Attachments:
Green GEN Cymru Rhiwlas Connection EIA Scoping Report