



Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade Reinforcement Project

Cumbernauld Substation Extension

Covering Letter

July 2026

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Enterprise & Communities
Planning & Place
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Ground floor, Civic Centre
Motherwell,
ML1 1AB

Dear Ms Lisa Smith,

Please find attached an application for planning permission under Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) for an extension to the existing Cumbernauld Substation located to the south-east of Forest Road, Cumbernauld.

Scottish Power Transmission (SPT) submits this application for planning permission under *Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997* (as amended) for the installation and operation of the proposed Cumbernauld 275kV/33kV Substation Extension (hereinafter known as the Proposed Development).

This application is submitted by SPT (The Applicant). SPT are a wholly owned subsidiary of Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN). SPEN owns, operates, and develops the high voltage electricity transmission system within Central and Southern Scotland, and holds a license under the Electricity Act 1989 to develop and maintain an efficient, coordinated, and economical system of electricity transmission.

Proposed Development for which Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) planning permission is sought:

The Proposed Development would include the following works, for which planning permission under the *Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997* is sought to install, operate and keep installed:

- New substation equipment including;
 - 275kV Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS);
 - Two Super Grid (275/33kV) Transformers with AIS circuit breakers;
 - Two connection bays with marshalling kiosks;
 - 275kV bus section breaker
 - 2no. new gantries;
- New access road (5.5m width), from Forest Road main road;
- One single storey new control building (including toilet, mess room, storage, office, battery room, and other electrical equipment);
- New platform to accommodate new electrical equipment (no more than 1.8ha);
- DNO (Distribution Network Operator) Substation;
- Car parking for up to 6 vehicles;
- 3m high palisade perimeter fencing;
- Internal footpath (2m wide);
- Internal vehicular access road (3.5m wide);
- Realignment of existing 33kV cables and overhead line;
- Dedicated Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS);
- Operational lighting (only during maintenance in hours of darkness); and
- Associated landscape planting.

Please refer to Volume 1, Chapter 4: Project Description of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for more details.

Established Need for Proposed Development:

The Proposed Development is required to support the Proposed New-build Overhead Line (WB Route) from Glenmavis to Bonnybridge Substation as part of the wider Denny to Wishaw Upgrade (DWNO) project.

Please refer to Volume 1, Chapter 4: Project Description of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for more details.

Consent for the remaining elements of the DWNO Project (covered as part of the submitted EIAR) is being sought under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989, for reference these applications are as follows:

1. WB Route 400kV OHL (application Reference ECU00006380)
2. XX and XR Upgrading from 275kV to 400kV (This Application) (Application Reference ECU00006382)
3. ZG Upgrading from 2575 to 400kV (This Application) (Application Reference ECU00006375)

Necessary document within the application for planning permission:

The Proposed Development, is not of a type listed under Schedule 1 of the EIA Regulations and therefore does not constitute 'Schedule 1 Development', meaning an EIA is not mandatory. However, when considered alongside the wider DWNO project, the development meets the criteria for Schedule 1 of the Electricity Works EIA Regulations, making an EIA a mandatory requirement.

Accordingly, this application for consent is accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report).

In support of the planning application submitted under *Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997*, this letter sets out below the measures taken by the Applicant to satisfy the relevant statutory requirements and ensure a complete application has been submitted to North Lanarkshire Council. The necessary documentation accompanying the application is listed below, and its specific location is referenced in the corresponding cell.

Necessary Documentation	Submission Reference
Location plan and site plan, showing clearly and at an appropriate scale the location of all infrastructure for which the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) planning permission is sought.	The location of the Proposed Development is provided within the EIA Report in Volume 2, Figure 1.1: Overview of Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade. A separate location plan is also provided in Volume 2, Figure 1.2: Proposed Development Location Plan. A description of the Proposed Development is provided in Volume 1, Chapter 4: Project Description.
The entirety of the environmental information required in an EIA report, where the proposal is deemed to be EIA development;	The information is contained within the Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade EIA Report as listed in Annex 1 that accompanies this cover letter. The EIA Report has been informed by, and responds to the matters raised within, the EIA Scoping Opinion issued by Scottish Ministers on 07 October 2025. A number of Supporting Documents are also submitted with the application; these documents provide information additional to that contained within the EIA Report. The Supporting Documents are also listed in Annex 1.

An explanation of how all the scoping responses from statutory consultees have been addressed (for EIA developments);	An overview of the EIA Scoping Process is included in Volume 1, Chapter 2: Approach to EIA. A Scoping Matrix is also included in Volume 1, Chapter 2: Approach to EIA. This sets out how the Applicant has responded to all comments and issues raised by statutory consultees as part of the EIA Scoping process and includes details of how the Scoping Opinion issued by Scottish Ministers on 07 October 2025 has informed the scope and content of the EIA and supporting EIA Report. A list of the topics that were scoped out from the EIA, and a summary of the reasons for this, is also included at Volume 1 Chapter 2 - Approach to EIA.
Details of the established need for and of the anticipated benefits of the project;	Details of the established need for the project are outlined in Volume 1, Chapter 1 - Introduction.
A detailed explanation of all alternative options considered and why discounted;	Details of alternative options considered by the Applicant for the project are outlined in Volume 1, Chapter 3 - Evolution of Design and Alternatives.
A pre-application consultation report setting out the information provided to the public and procedures carried out, and how comments received from the public have been considered in formulating the final design of the proposal;	A Pre-Application Consultation Report (PAC Report) has been prepared by the Applicant; this details the public consultation and engagement conducted by the Applicant in advance of the submission of the application and summarises how feedback has been considered in the finalisation of the design of the proposal. The PAC Report is included as a Supporting Document to the application.
A Planning Statement;	A Planning Statement has been prepared by the Applicant; this details an assessment of the Proposed Development against the relevant provisions of the Development Plan. The Planning Statement is included as a Supporting Document to the application.
Design and Access Statement	The Design and Access Statement is included as a Supporting Document to the application.
A schedule of mitigation measures;	The EIA Report includes suggested mitigation within each technical assessment included as part of the overall report. This information is collated into a single Schedule of Mitigation at Volume 1, Chapter 17 - Schedule of Mitigation.
A statement confirming the Applicant's view that all necessary environmental information has been submitted with the application, and that it does not anticipate the need to propose any substantive changes to the development;	The Applicant confirms, by virtue of this cover letter, that in its view all necessary environmental information has been submitted with the application.
All other supporting application documents, including a cover letter which includes a description of all components of the development requiring planning permission.	A list of all documentation submitted in support of this application is included as Annex 1 to this cover letter. This includes further details of the following elements of the EIA Report: • Non-Technical Summary • Volume 1 Main Text • Volume 2 Figures • Volume 3 Visualisations • Volume 4 Appendices A list of Supporting Documents is also included in Annex 1.

Additional Information supporting the application for consent:

The Applicant has **prepared** a number of Supporting Documents, which are submitted with this application for planning permission. These documents satisfy the requirement for information in relation to the pre-application consultation measures the Applicant has undertaken in advance of the submission of the application for planning permission, and also an assessment of the Proposed Development against the provisions of the relevant Development Plan. These include:

- Pre-Application Consultation Report (PAC Report),
- Planning, Design and Access Statement (PDAS)
- Planning Statement

Annex 1 to this letter includes a list of all required, and supporting documentation forming part of the application for consent.

The application fee of £37,720.00 has been paid via BACS transfer ePlanning.Scot reference number 100751890. The Fee has been calculated using the ePlanning Portal fee calculator based on an application for planning permission.

We look forward to receiving formal confirmation of receipt of this application. In the meantime, should you have any queries or require further information, please feel free to contact us through the details provided.

Yours sincerely,

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Alan Graham
Environmental Planner
For and on behalf of SP Transmission

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