

18.

Summary and Conclusions

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18.1 Summary of Assessment

18.1.1 SP Transmission (hereafter known as 'the Applicant') is seeking Section 37 consent from the Energy Consents Unit and deemed planning permission for the development known as Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade (hereafter known as the 'Project'). It comprises:

- New Build Overhead Line:
 - The construction of approximately 19km of a new 275 / 400kV overhead line (known as the 'WB Route') between Bonnybridge Substation and an existing overhead line (known as the 'XX Route') north of Glenmavis, with a connection to Cumbernauld Substation.
- The Upgrading of Existing Overhead Lines:
 - The upgrading of approximately 4km of an existing overhead line between Denny North Substation and Bonnybridge Substation from 275 to 400kV, known as the 'ZG Route' and ancillary overhead line span between existing towers (ZG001A and ZCS062A);
 - ZD Route - installation of two new towers with two new overhead line spans as part of reconfiguration of connections to Denny North Substation;
 - The upgrading of approximately 15km of an existing overhead line between Easterhouse and Newarthill Substations from 275 to 400kV, known as the 'XX Route' and the installation of one new tower (XX048A); and
- The upgrading of approximately 16km of an existing overhead line between Newarthill and Wishaw Substations from 275 to 400kV, known as the 'XR route' and the installation of two new towers (XR001A and XR001T). Tower XR001T will be temporary bypass tower, to allow the circuit to remain in operation while the new tower (XR001A) is constructed.
- Ancillary Works:
 - The CB Route Removal - The removal of approximately 11km of an existing 132kV overhead line between Bonnybridge and Cumbernauld Substation, known as the 'CB Route'.
 - The AA Route Undergrounding - The undergrounding of two sections of the existing 132kV overhead line (known as 'AA route') between Bonnybridge and Bathgate, where it is crossed by the proposed new overhead line, known as the 'AA Route'.
- Extensions to four existing substations are required as part of the Project. These substations are:
 - Denny North;
 - Bonnybridge
 - Cumbernauld
 - Wishaw (the 'Wishaw Substation Extension').

- Distribution Line Diversion Works
 - Associated access, drainage, landscaping and ecological enhancement are also proposed.
- 18.1.2 The Applicant is also seeking separate Planning permission for the Cumbernauld Substation Extension works from North Lanarkshire Council.
- 18.1.3 An EIA of the Project has been undertaken, and the results are reported in this EIA Report.
- 18.1.4 Table 18-1 below provides a summary of the assessment, in particular highlighting whether a likely significant effect has been predicted for those environmental aspects scoped into the assessment when taking into account proposed mitigation measures i.e. it presents a summary of the residual effects.

Table 18-1 Summary of Assessment – Likely Significant Effects

Environmental Aspect	Construction Effects	Operational Effects
Landscape and Visual	Likely significant effects	Likely significant effects
Cultural Heritage	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects
Biodiversity	Likely significant effects*	No likely significant effects*
Water Environment	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects
Ground Conditions	No likely significant effects	No, scoped out of the assessment.
Traffic and Movement	No likely significant effects	No, scoped out of the assessment.
Noise and Vibration	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects
Socio-economics and Recreation	No likely significant effects	No, scoped out of the assessment.
Forestry	Likely significant effects**	No likely significant effects

* Some significant effects from the loss of AWI ANSW and the loss of AWI LEPO due to woodland removal to provide clearance for the New Build Overhead Line wayleave. This is a permanent, construction-phase impact.

**Some significant effects due to the removal of semi natural woodland classified as LEPO and the change in land use as a result to provide clearance for the OHL wayleave.

18.2 Conclusions

- 18.2.1 The results of the EIA ensure that the relevant consenting bodies - Energy Consents Unit (Section 37 Applications), North Lanarkshire Council (Cumbernauld Planning Application), statutory consultees as well as other interested parties including local communities are aware of the likely environmental effects of the Project and whether these may be significant or not. It is important to note that a significant adverse effect is not necessarily one that would make the Project unacceptable, nor is a significant beneficial effect necessarily one that would make the Project acceptable. The purpose of identifying the significant effects (adverse and beneficial) is to ensure that all parties are aware of the Project's environmental effects (in particular those which are likely to be significant) so that they may be considered alongside other material considerations in determining the Section 37 applicant and deemed planning consent.
- 18.2.2 The EIA of the Project has identified and assessed the likely significant effects which would result from its construction and operation. Through careful siting and including mitigation within the design and construction of the Project, the majority of likely significant environmental effects have been prevented, avoided or reduced. While some significant effects have been identified these are limited to effects on landscape and visual aspects, biodiversity and forestry regarding ancient woodland loss. The ancient woodland loss is a result of 'LEPO' and 'ANSW' classified woodland of plantation origin and woodland classified as semi natural, required removal to allow for the construction of the new build overhead line wayleave. These have been mitigated as far as possible through the proposed of offsite planting measures to compensate for the loss of woodland. This will take the form of a compensatory planting plan to be agreed with North Lanarkshire Council. EMF significant effects are likely because of the uprating overhead line works. These have been mitigated as far as possible by increasing the clearances (by 20cm) from receptors to comply with the minimum 7.7m.