

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY STRATEGIC REINFORCEMENT – STAKEHOLDER FORUM MEETING MINUTES

Date	21st Feb 2014	
Time	1030-1230hrs	
Venue	Station Hotel, Dumfries	

Attendees:

Name		
Cathy Cacace (CC) – Scottish Government	David McNay (DM) - SEPA	Diyar Kadar (DK) - SPEN
Adrian Browne (AB) – South Ayrshire	Neil Carruthers (NC) - SPEN	Colin Brown (CB) - SPEN
Stuart Graham (SG) - SNH	Colin Taylor (CT) - SPEN	Cathie Hill (CH) - SPEN
John Malcolm (JM) – Historic Scotland	Ross Baxter (RB) - SPEN	
David Suttie (DS) – Dumfries & Galloway	Stephen Jack (SJ) - SPEN	

Circulation:

Name		
Cathy Cacace (SGECU)	Neil Carruthers (SPEN)	Cathie Hill (SPEN)
Adrian Browne (SAC)	Colin Taylor (SPEN)	June Dawson (SEPA)
Stuart Graham (SNH)	Ross Baxter (SPEN)	Adele Shaw (HS)
John Malcolm (HS)	Stephen Jack (SPEN)	Robin Campbell (HS)
David Suttie (DGC)	Diyar Kadar (SPEN)	
David McNay (SEPA)	Colin Brown (SPEN)	

	Description	Owner	Status
1.0	Note of Attendance and Introductions		
1.1	SJ welcomed everyone to the meeting and kicked off introductions		
2.0	Introduction by Chair		
2.1	SJ confirmed that The Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (SGECU) have agreed to act as Chair for the Stakeholder Forum going forward. SJ formally proposed SGECU as the Chair, this was accepted by all.	ALL	Complete
2.2	CC stressed that the role of the Forum is not to gain support for every issue to be discussed as a means to an eventual “rubber stamp” for the project but rather a platform to foster an open and constructive approach to identifying, reporting and considering issues that will have an impact on that decision.		
	The Project		
3.1	SJ described the ultimate aim of the project and main drivers for this investment in the transmission network in south west Scotland (see attached presentation slides)		
3.2	SJ took the group through the key design requirements for the project, the work that has been done to date to identify high level engineering options and the strategic technical and environmental review which is currently underway. SJ confirmed that a full presentation on the outcome of the strategic review of engineering options would be undertaken at the next meeting.		
4.0	Terms of Reference & Remit/Membership of Forum		
4.1	The terms of reference (see attached SGECU presentation slides) were accepted by all	ALL	Complete
4.2	JM raised the point that, whilst the Forum will discuss high level issues, there will remain a requirement to discuss specific technical matters arising through the routeing and environmental assessment process outside of this. SJ confirmed that the Forum would not replace meetings/workshops with individual stakeholders.		
4.3	DM raised point regarding membership of the Forum for other stakeholders such as Forestry Commission Scotland. RB confirmed that other members would be considered throughout the lifetime of the project and invited to attend where required however this would be limited to those stakeholders who have a decision making role.		
4.4	DS raised point that, if the project extends into England, this would		

	be subject to a separate consents process which would include a range of other stakeholders. RB explained that arrangements for working south of the border had not yet been confirmed and early discussion with National Grid was underway. It was too early to state which of the companies would undertake this work however SPT recognised that communication and working together was a critical element in the development of the proposal. SPT will keep the group informed of developments in relation to this item. DS highlighted that DGC have good contacts and relationships with neighbouring local authorities south of the border that could be used as the project develops. SPT welcomed this offer.		
5.0	Discussion of Other Matters		
5.1	General discussion around format of environmental statement and Section 37 applications. RB explained that there is no fixed approach to how this would be set out and the approach would be set out as the project design develops. SPT will keep the Forum informed of developments in relation to this item.		
5.2	SPT set out emerging thoughts on how and when to engage with relevant stakeholders and interested parties as the project develops through the routeing and environmental assessment stages. SPT noted that DS had previously suggested a presentation to DGC elected members on the project. DS reaffirmed this and suggested the timing of approach could be aligned prior to the initial public consultation and again prior to Section 37 submission. SPT noted this and will keep the Forum informed on developments in relation to this item.		
5.3	General discussion around types of mitigation that will be considered as part of the scheme and the importance of providing the relevant facts in relation to each. The group would provide an excellent opportunity for SPT to provide information/discussion around such mitigation measures.		
5.4	SPT highlighted that the frequency of the Forum's meetings would be determined by the stage of the project and issues to be discussed at that time. This being the case it is expected that frequency will vary from monthly to bimonthly meetings.		
5.5	CC confirmed that the SGECU would appoint a minute taker for the next Forum meeting	CC	
6.0	AOB		
	SJ to organise next meeting in Q2/Q3 2014	SJ	