

Shared Environmental Service
Silverwood Business Park
190 Raceview Road
Ballymena
Co. Antrim
BT42 4HZ

Date: 24/07/2020

Planning Reference: LA10/201/1386/F

Location: 737m NW of 56 Mullydoo Road Greencastle through townlands of Crockanboy Teebane West Casorna Rousky Drumlea Garvagh Meenadoo Trinamadan and Culvacullion ending at 785m NW of 24 Meenadoo Road Culvacullion Gortin.

Proposal: 33kV power line involving both construction of above ground 33kV overhead line supported by wooden poles and underground 33kV cable laid below ground level in ducts, to serve Curraghinalt mine (currently under consideration planning application LA10/2017/1249/F). 33kV connection is c37.9 km in length, comprising of c26.9 km of overhead line supported by single and double wooden pole sets and c11 km of underground cabling. c 15.1 km of the powerline is within the Fermanagh & Omagh District Council area comprising of c 8.2 km of overhead line supported by single and double wooden pole sets and c 6.9 km of underground cabling.

Consultation Type: EIA determination under Regulation 12 of the Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017

Further to the SES response sent to DfI on 30/4/20 and uploaded to the portal on 5/5/20, which was a combined response for this case and LA11/2019/1000F, find attached a response specific to LA10/2019/1386/F.

Shared Environmental Service (SES) advises that this application is partly in a sensitive area within the meaning of Part 1, Regulation 2 (2) (f) of The Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017.

As identified in the Ecological Impact Assessment, the proposed, has pathways for effects on Owenkillew River SAC, River Foyle and Tributaries SAC and River Finn SAC (Ireland). It is important that watercourses that may hold supporting habitat for these SACs are also considered. The potential for a likely significant effect on site selection features or an adverse effect on site integrity cannot be ruled out in the absence of mitigation.

Department for Infrastructure Strategic Planning Division is advised to consult Shared Environmental Service on the Northern Ireland Planning Portal in due course so that the proposal can be assessed in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 43 (1) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended).

SES requests that a shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment (sHRA) is undertaken by the applicant in consultation with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) in its role as Statutory Nature Conservation Body. The sHRA may refer to the Environmental Statement (ES) and Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (OCEMP) however it should be provided as a stand-alone document or Annex to the ES and include mitigation specific to the sites identified above. The ES and Outline CEMP should be consistent with the information in and findings of the sHRA.

The mitigation for e.g. pollution prevention set out in OCEMP 5.0 represents good practice and it is noted that ecological mitigation including the employment of an Ecological Clerk of Works is set out in 6.0. SES will fully consider the proposed mitigation when preparing the HRA on behalf of DfI as a Competent Authority.

sharedenvironmentalservice@midandeantrim.gov.uk