EIA Quality Mark
Case Study

Kendoon to Tongland Overhead Line Routeing Consultation

Key Issues –
- Balancing the technical, economic, environmental and social implications of the routeing of a high voltage overhead line within a predominantly rural area.
- Making effective use of the routeing stage of the project to ‘design out’ and/or minimise/mitigate potentially significant effects prior to undertaking the EIA.
- Effective engagement with local communities in relation to an often-contentious form of development.
- Understanding the potential implications of route options, from a socio economic aspect (including recreation, tourism and residential visual amenity), through discussions, and site visits with local landowners and residents.
- Utilising the positive influence of public consultation on the routeing process - in particular the identification, through consultation, of alternative route options for the overhead line.

Purpose of the project
ScottishPower Energy Networks (SPEN) proposes to upgrade and replace the existing 132kV electricity network between Polquhanity (north of Kendoon) and Tongland, a distance of approximately 44km. The project is necessary to replace the existing end-of-life infrastructure, enhance security of supply, and provide additional capacity. The upgrade also allows SPEN to remove approximately 90km of existing 132kV infrastructure no longer required. LUC led the routeing process and are currently coordinating the EIA, including preparation of the ES for submission under S37 of the Electricity Act 1989 in late 2018.

Description of the project
The KTR Project is situated within Dumfries & Galloway, and consists of the following:
- New 132kV double circuit steel tower overhead lines between Polquhanity and the existing Kendoon substation, Kendoon substation and Glenlee substation, and Glenlee substation and Tongland.
- New 132kV single circuit wood pole overhead lines between Carsfad and Kendoon, and Earlston and Glenlee.
- An extension to the existing 132kV Glenlee substation.
Lessons learnt
Consultation with the public and landowners is a valuable step when routeing an overhead line. Though LUC and SPEN appraised the route options against technical, economic and environmental constraints, the input of the public and landowners was important as a means of highlighting local environmental conditions as well as socio economic issues.

The consultation responses received from statutory consultees were also key in guiding more focused discussion on the likely environmental effects of specific sections of the route options and informing the scope of the subsequent EIA.

Co-ordination between the client/project team, specialists and members of the public made it possible to take account of a number of consultation inputs and formulate alternative route options. This meant that the overhead line route eventually progressed to EIA stage more closely reflected the concerns of local residents and landowners, where possible.

Ongoing communication with local communities is also being undertaken through the establishment of a Community Liaison Group (CLG), which is co-ordinated by the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit, and attended by the client/project team. This aims to ensure effective consultation throughout the lifetime of the project.

The iterative nature of the routeing process was crucial in enabling the team to appraise the alternative route options proposed through the consultation process.

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