

PREFACE

SSE Generation Limited (hereafter referred to as “the Applicant”) is applying under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 for consent to construct and operate Achany Extension Wind Farm. The proposed wind farm that is subject to Section 36 consent is hereafter referred to as the “Proposed Development”. The application for Section 36 consent has been prepared by SSE Renewables Developments (UK) Limited (SSE Renewables), “the Developer”, on behalf of the Applicant. This Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report is submitted with the application in accordance with The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017¹, as amended (the “EIA Regulations”) and The Electricity Works (Miscellaneous Temporary Modifications) (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2020²³.

In addition, the Applicant is seeking a direction under section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (‘the 1997 Act’) to the effect that planning permission would be deemed to be granted in respect of the Proposed Development.

The Proposed Development comprises a generating station, consisting of a wind farm with up to 20 no. Wind Turbine Generators and a maximum tip height of up to 149.9 metres, supported by ancillary development. The Proposed Development would be an extension to Achany Wind Farm. The installed generation capacity of the existing operational Achany Wind Farm is 38 megawatts (MW) and the total installed capacity of the Proposed Development alone, whilst dependent on the rated power of the turbine model procured, is anticipated to be in excess of 80MW. Therefore, the combined capacity of Achany Wind Farm and the Proposed Development is anticipated to be in excess of 118MW. The Proposed Development is located on adjoining land to the west of the operational Achany Wind Farm, some 4.5 kilometres (km) north of the village of Rosehall and approximately 11km west-north-west of Lairg.

The Proposed Development could contribute to legislated climate change targets⁴ and government policy objectives in helping Scotland to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero by 2045 at the latest.

This EIA Report contains the following volumes:

- Volume 1: Non-Technical Summary
- Volume 2: Main Report
- Volume 3: Figures
- Volume 3A: Landscape and Visual Photomontages (NatureScot Methodology)
- Volume 3B: Landscape and Visual Photomontages (The Highland Council Methodology)
- Volume 4: Technical Appendices
- Volume 5: Confidential Annex⁵

¹ Scottish Government, Scottish Statutory Instrument 2017 No 101: The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017. Available online at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2017/101/contents/made> (last accessed on 13 April 2021)

² Scottish Government, Scottish Statutory Instrument 2020 No 123: The Electricity Works (Miscellaneous Temporary Modifications) (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2020. Available online at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2020/123/made> (last accessed 13 April 2021)

³ These temporary arrangements have been extended to 30 September 2021 by the Coronavirus (Scotland) Acts (Amendment of Expiry Dates) Regulations 2020.

⁴ The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019

⁵ Comprising sensitive environmental information and supplied to relevant statutory and non-statutory bodies only.

Additional documentation that has been submitted with the Section 36 application for consent includes:

- Planning Statement;
- Pre-Application Consultation Report; and
- Cover letter.

A copy of the EIA Report is available on the application website at <https://www.sserenewables.com/achanyextension/> or on the Scottish Government Energy Consents website at www.energyconsents.scot.

Copies of the EIA Report may be obtained from SSE Generation Limited (contact: SSE Renewables, FAO Karen Anderson, 1 Waterloo Street, Glasgow, G2 6AY or via email at karen.anderson@sse.com) at a charge of £450 for a hard copy, or on electronic USB or DVD free of charge. Copies of a short Non-Technical Summary are also available free of charge.

Any representations in respect of the application may be submitted via the Energy Consents Unit website at www.energyconsents.scot/Register.aspx; by email to The Scottish Government, Energy Consents Unit mailbox at representations@gov.scot or by post, to The Scottish Government, Energy Consents Unit, 4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU, identifying the proposal and specifying the grounds of representation.

Representations should be dated, clearly stating the name of the project (in block capitals), full return email and postal address of those making representations. Representations sent by email to representations@gov.scot will receive acknowledgement.

All representations should be received not later than the date falling 30 days from the date of the last published notice, although Ministers may consider representations received after this date. Additional information which is submitted by the Applicant will be subject to further public notice in this manner, and representations to such information will be accepted as per this notice.

The EIA Report will be advertised on the project website⁶ and in the following newspapers upon submission of the application:

- Edinburgh Gazette;
- The Herald; and
- The Northern Times.

⁶ <https://www.sserenewables.com/achanyextension/>