

My Name:

My Address:

My Post Code:

Ms Lesley Dow
Liaison Manager
SSE,
Inveralmold House
200 Dunkeld Road
PERTH
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Date: 28 April 2016

Dear Lesley

OBJECTION

I object to plans to construct a new 400Kv overhead power line past Monymusk to Kintore.

SSE's "preferred southern corridor" now would run within clear sight of Bennachie. This is a Special Landscape Area (SLA) for Aberdeenshire's 2016 Local Plan which recognises the importance of Bennachie to Aberdeenshire's landscape identity, its amenity and popularity with visitors and its intervisibility with the surrounding landscape. Erection of 50m pylons in this area is not compatible with an SLA (contrary to Holford Rule #1).

The new corridor also passes closely between four category A castles or historic buildings and their surrounding planned landscapes with long histories that are used for amenity, outdoor activities and which attract many visitors (Holford Rule #2). It also crosses the National Trust for Scotland's Castle Trail which is recognized by NTS and VisitScotland for its contribution to local tourism. The new line with 50m high pylons will detract from visitors and business opportunities, not to mention the amenity (nature-watching, walking, cycling, photography, art, history, running, golf, fishing etc) in the area.

Due to the flat-lying ground in front of Bennachie, the planned 50m high pylons would be seen from one end of this area at Tillyfourie for 6 miles nearly to the other end near to Kintore (contrary to Holford Rules #4 and #5). I also object on health grounds to high voltage lines close to residential properties. I also point out potential hazards from construction and operation of a 400Kv line potentially above three high pressure gas pipelines near Craigearn.

Huge numbers of over-wintering geese and swans (including whoopers) feed over winter in the fields in this area and will be adversely impacted and risk collision with the cables – not good for the birds ... or security of supply.

I do not query the overall need to carry new renewable energy south to the central belt and onward to England. However, as well as the reasons given above I object because the proposed line design is 50 years old without adoption of new more efficient technologies (such as DC), it should be routed offshore or if that is not feasible it should be undergrounded at least in part or a more suitable shorter corridor be chosen, one with less visual impact and harm to amenity and wildlife.

Further, after reviewing SSE's documents and later information, it is not clear that SSE have been reasonable in reaching the decisions they have (which will end up ringing Bennachie with pylons and taking a longer route – contrary to Holford Rule #3). The flawed, confusing, opaque and over-short consultation process also causes me great disquiet.

Other comments:

Yours sincerely