

The Scottish Government
5 Atlantic Quay
150 Broomielaw
Glasgow
G2 8LU

2 December 2025

For the attention of James McKenzie

Ref: ECU00005061

Dear James,

FEARNA PUMPED STORAGE HYDRO SCHEME

SUBMISSION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FURTHER TO APPLICATION FOR CONSENT UNDER SECTION 36 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT 1989 AND DIRECTION FOR DEEMED PLANNING PERMISSION UNDER SECTION 57(2) OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997, AS AMENDED, TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE THE FEARNA PUMPED STORAGE HYDRO SCHEME IN THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL PLANNING AUTHORITY AREA

Background

In February 2025, Fearna PSH Ltd, the “Applicant”, a joint venture between Gilkes Energy and SSE Renewables, applied to the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) of the Scottish Government under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 for indefinite consent, together with a direction under section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 for deemed planning permission, to be granted to construct and operate the Fearna Pumped Storage Hydro (PSH) scheme located in Glengarry, approximately 23km to the west of Invergarry.

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report was provided with the application detailing the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development. Other documents submitted in support of the application included a Planning Statement and a Shadow Habitats Regulation Appraisal and a Non-technical Summary of the EIA Report.

Since submitting the Section 36 Application, the Applicant has continued to engage with statutory and other consultees. Questions from these consultees have required the submission of Additional Information to support their assessment of the application. This letter and the associated documents attached provide responses to those questions, together with amendments to the EIA report.

Changes to the Proposed Development

Since the submission of the application for consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 in February 2025, whilst there is no significant change to the description of the development in the application and the key elements and substance of the development remain the same, the detailed arrangement of parts of the built development have been modified to reduce their visual impact. These changes to the Proposed Development are summarised as follows:

1. Removal of the visible upper control works structures, which are now integral with the Fearna dam or will be submerged at all times;
2. Removal of the spillway channel and access bridge from the Fearna dam. Only one spillway is required for the Fearna Reservoir and this has been retained on the Coire Dubh dam;
3. Adjustments to the arrangement of the underground tunnel system which would have no material impact on the above-ground appearance of the Proposed Development;
4. Revisions to the temporary works associated with the widening works of 2.5km of the C1144 public road in the vicinity of the main PSH site;
5. Provision of a landform screening bund between the Southern Access Route (SAR) and Loch an Staic to reduce potential disturbance of sensitive avian receptors by construction traffic using the SAR; and
6. Provision of additional habitat enhancement measures.

Further detail of these changes is included in the attached Additional Information Report.

Provision of Additional Environmental Information

The following additional environmental information is submitted, with further details included in the attached document Additional Information Report:

1. Details of significant increases to the habitat enhancement proposals, with an increased focus within Wild Land Area 18 and the site boundary, including further peatland restoration, native woodland restoration and planting, eradication of invasive non-native species, deer density reduction, and river sediment augmentation and other measures to support Atlantic salmon and other aquatic species;
2. Details of additional habitat enhancement measures to support Common Scoter and Black-throated Diver within the West Inverness-shire Lochs SPA;
3. Modelling of the effect of the operation of the Proposed Development on the temperature regime of Loch Quoich to inform the potential for impacts on the outfall temperatures from Loch Quoich to the downstream river system;
4. Updated temperature monitoring of Loch Quoich and the downstream river system;
5. A Sediment Augmentation feasibility study for the River Garry below the Invergarry Dam;
6. Modelling of the temporary drawdown of Loch Quoich during construction of the Proposed Development;
7. Geomorphological assessments of the main PSH site and the Southern Access Route;
8. An advice note on the suitability of habitats at Loch Fearna for Common Scoter;

9. An advice note on temperature rise effects on invertebrates in the Garr Garry and Loch Garry; and
10. A response to the RSPB's objection to the Proposed Development.

Conclusions of the EIA Report

The Additional Information contained within this letter and associated documents supplements the original EIA Report by providing further design and other improvements which reduce the environmental impacts further, but do not materially change the overall conclusions presented in the EIA report.

Advertising and Availability of Additional Information

A copy of the additional information will be served on the Highland Council as planning authority in accordance with The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.

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- The Edinburgh Gazette;
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We would be pleased to answer any queries you may have and look forward to your validation of the Additional Information.

Yours sincerely,

Carl Crompton
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