

Energy Consents Units (ECU)
The Scottish Government
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18th December 2024

Dear Lynda,

Spittal Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), construction and operation of BESS up to 300 MW with associated infrastructure access and ancillary works on land generally at Spittal Mains Spittal, Wick KW1 5XR

Application under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989

On behalf of our client Field Spittal Limited ('the Applicant') we are pleased to enclose for your attention an application for the construction and operation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) up to 300 MW with associated infrastructure, access and ancillary works on land generally at Spittal Mains, Spittal, Wick ('the Proposed Development').

The BESS would connect to the electricity network via the existing and adjacent 275 kV Spittal Substation.

The Site presents as open farmland but is characterised within the immediate wider context by farmland and tree plantations. The Proposed Development would be accessed via A9 located east of the Site.

The Proposed Development principally comprises:

- > Battery storage units utilising lithium-ion technology, arranged into rows;
- > Medium-voltage (MV) skids and ancillary low-voltage (LV) equipment;
- > High-voltage (HV) grid transformers;
- > Air insulated switchgear;
- > A substation building comprising welfare facilities, a switch room and control room;
- > An interface substation and underground 275 kV grid connection cable to connect to the electricity network via the Spittal substation; and
- > Site-wide supporting infrastructure including cabling, access tracks, fencing, attenuation basins, and landscaping and biodiversity enhancement measures.

The grid connection date for the Proposed Development is 2030.

The Application

As the Proposed Development has a generating capacity in excess of 50 megawatts (MW), consent is required from Scottish Ministers under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 ('the 1989 Act'). In addition, a request is being made by the Applicant that planning permission is deemed to be granted under section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended ('the 1997 Act') for the BESS and the ancillary development including the substation, access and landscaping.

The application package comprises the following documents:

- > Drawings Pack:
 - > 001.1 Indicative Site Layout Plan
 - > 002.1 Site Location Plan
 - > 004.1 Substation Building Plan and Elevations
 - > 004.2 MV Skid Plan and Elevations
 - > 004.3 Battery Plan and Elevations
 - > 004.4 Auxiliary Transformer Plan and Elevations
 - > 004.5 High Voltage Transformers Plan and Elevations
 - > 004.6 Lighting and CCTV Column Plan and Elevations
 - > 004.7 LV Cabinet Plan and Elevations
 - > 004.8 Typical Palisade Fencing Plan and Elevations
 - > 005.3 Equipment and Structure Levels Plan
 - > 005.4 275 kV Substation Structure Levels
 - > 005.5 Substation Compound Layout
 - > 005.6 Fire Safety Plan
 - > FEN001-EL-001 to FEN001-EL-006, Contextual Elevations
- > Planning Statement
- > Archaeology Desk-based Assessment
- > Noise Impact Assessment
- > Landscape and Visual Appraisal
- > Transport Statement including Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan
- > Flood Risk Assessment
- > Drainage Strategy
- > Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report
- > Outline Battery Safety Management Plan
- > Ground Investigations Preliminary Risk Assessment
- > Ground Investigations Phase 2 Report
- > Socioeconomic Impact Assessment
- > Pre-Application Consultation Report.

Fee

The fee for the proposal, in accordance with The Electricity (Application for Consent and Variation of Consent) (Fees) (Scotland) Regulations 2022 is £120,000 1(d) “*Construction, or construction and operation, of a generation station which is not EIA development and has a capacity of exceeding 100 megawatts but not exceeding 300 megawatts*”.

The fee has been paid by the Applicant directly with reference number: ECUNSPITTABESS (ECU00005116)

Advertisement of Application

The Application will be advertised in accordance with the 1990 Regulations after the documents have been registered and the Planning Authority (The Highland Council) has been notified (a copy of the application will be provided to the Planning Authority by the Energy Consents Unit at the commencement of consultation which has been agreed to satisfy this requirement).

The advert (attached) will be published as follows:

- > **John O'Groats Journal** – 2 consecutive weeks
- > **The Edinburgh Gazette** – on date of registration of application as agreed with ECU
- > **The Scotsman** – on publication date closest to date of registration agreed with ECU
- > **On the project website** – <https://fieldspittal.co.uk>

A copy of the submission documents will also be provided on the project website noted above on the date of registration.

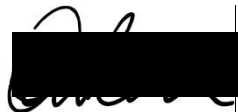
Parties will be notified of a date, not less than 28 days from the date of notice, for representations.

The site owner will be notified of the submission on the date of registration when this is agreed.

The Applicant will place a copy of the site location plan, and a copy of the application in hard copy in Wick Library.

We look forward to your acknowledgement in early course that the Application for Section 36 consent has been accepted for determination. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries or if you require any additional information.

Yours sincerely



Pippa Melville
Senior Associate

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