

Our Ref: 24000383
Your Ref: XX



04 November 2024

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Southern Electric Power Distribution
Section 37 Notification – Electricity Act 1989
Works located on land to the west of Easthampstead Road, Wokingham, RG40 2HP

Dear Sir/ Madam,

We write on behalf of our client Southern Electric Power Distribution ('SEPD') in respect to works to the existing 33 kilovolt ('kV') Overhead Lines ('OHL') located on land to the west of Easthampstead Road, Wokingham, RG40 2HP, in proximity to National Grid Reference (NGR): SU 83352 68157.

This cover letter is submitted alongside the Section 37 Notification for works required to the west of Easthampstead Road, Wokingham, specifically in conjunction with the existing 33kV OHL. For information, these works are associated with other works being undertaken by SEPD in the same land to divert existing 132kV apparatus to accommodate the recently approved planning application (ref: 191068). That application, approved Wokingham Borough Council, primarily included an outline planning application for an area of proposed housing development. The development will feature up to 1,434 dwellings, a primary school, a local centre, public open space, play areas, and associated infrastructure and landscaping. The proposed development outline in this letter and the enclosed notification will appropriately divert the 33kV OHL to allow for the approved housing development.

For clarity, the proposed works to the 33kV OHL are linked to the separately approved works on the adjacent 132kV OHL (notification submitted to Wokingham Borough Council on 12th August 2024, application number: 242057). The notification for the 132kV OHL covered works to replace existing towers BW13 and BW18 with new towers 'BW13R' and 'BW18R'. Marcia Head, on behalf of the council, provided a no-objection response to this notification on 2nd September 2024, confirming that these works were exempt from requiring Section 37 consent.

Following the approval relating to the 132kV line, for due diligence SEPD requested that a second Section 37 Notification be submitted relating to the similar works to the 33kV OHL (located to the south of the 132kV OHL). This second stage of works is further detailed within the second notification, which has now been submitted alongside this cover letter for works proposed to the 33kV OHL. To provide an initial overview these proposed works include the following (from east to west).

1. **Diversion of short section of 33kV OHL and new PMT support pole:** A short section of the 33kV OHL will be diverted (this remains a continuation of the 33kV line), and a new pole will be installed to support a Pole Mounted Transformer (PMT). This PMT will step down the voltage from 33kV to 11kV before undergrounding. The pole and PMT are necessary to maintain the supply to a compound area currently on site. This is considered part of the 33kV line rather than a new spur and is therefore included in the notification. (apparently this is TBC with SSE right now)
2. **Installation of new H-pole (terminal) (located to the southern side of BW13R Tower):** A new H-pole will be installed at the easternmost part of the OHL, facilitating the undergrounding of the 33kV line.
3. **Replacement of H-pole in proximity to existing tower BW18R:** The existing 33kV H-pole 'P28' will be replaced with the new terminal pole being installed in the location of the existing P28. New terminal pole will be 15 or 16m. (Underground 33kV cable coming from East will be terminated here)
4. **Replacement of H-pole west of Easthampstead Road:** The existing H-pole here 'P36' (next to Emm Brook) will also be replaced in the same location (slightly westwards – however as far as LPA are aware this is in the same location).

For further details on the 33kV works, please refer to the second submitted Section 37 Notification, which is attached alongside this covering letter and the relevant plan for these works (ref: 20241010_23010130_PLN_INFO_33kV_Notification).

As set out within the Electricity Act 1989, the Local Planning Authority (LPA) should review notifications and provide a response within six weeks, advising if they have any comments or objections and therefore wish to invoke the full Section 37 consent process for the proposal. If no response is received within six weeks, it is assumed that the Council does not wish to provide any comments or objections to the proposed development.

We therefore request that Wokingham Borough Council review and return a copy of the submitted Section 37 Notification required in conjunction with the 33kV OHL at your earliest convenience. Please let us know if you require any further information to support your assessment of the proposal. Otherwise, we look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely

Rebecca Anderson
For and on behalf of SEPD