

ANNEX B – Simplified Notification

THIS FORM IS FOR USE BY APPLICANTS TO ADVISE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITIES OF PROPOSED WORKS TO BE UNDERTAKEN WITHIN THEIR DESIGNATED AREA THAT ARE CONSIDERED TO BE EXEMPTED UNDER THE OVERHEAD LINES(EXEMPTION) (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2009. LOCAL AUTHORITIES HAVE THE RIGHT TO INVOKE THE FULL SECTION 37 PROCESS UNDER THE ELECTRICITY ACT 1989 SHOULD IT BE CONSIDERED NECESSARY.

The Form should be sent in triplicate to each Local Planning Authority in whose area the proposed development would be situated.

DETAILS OF APPLICANT

Name: Southern Electric Power Distribution (SEPD)

Address: c/o Dalcour Maclaren, Units 3-4, Bredon Court, Brockeridge Park, Twyning, Gloucestershire, GL20 6FF

Telephone No: 07917 969659

Email address: lucy.davies@dalcourmaclaren.com/
rebecca.anderson@dalcourmaclaren.com

Applicant's reference: SEPD 24000383 – EP – South Wokingham Termination

Date: 12/08/2024

To: Chief Executive,

Electricity Act 1989: Overhead Lines (Exemption) (England and Wales) Regulations 2009

SEPD proposes to undertake the following works set out below which are exempt from requiring Section 37 Consent under the Electricity Act 1989 by falling within The Overhead Lines (Exemption) (England and Wales) Regulations 2009: Regulation 3(1)(e).

South Electric Power Distribution ('SEPD') intends to carry out refurbishment works to their existing South Wokingham 132kV Overhead Line ('OHL') located on land to the west of Easthampstead Road, Wokingham, RG40 2HP. These works include the replacement of existing towers BW13 and BW18 with new towers. Tower BW13 is currently located at NGR: SU 83401 68183 and Tower BW18 is located at NGR: SU 81667 67945. For clarity, these new towers are referred to as BW13R and BW18R in this notification and in the accompanying information plans (ref: 20240731_23010130_PLN_INFO.pdf). Both towers fall within Wokingham Borough Council's administrative area.

The existing towers both reach a total height of 27075 mm, while the new towers reach a total height of 29210 mm, representing a 7.9% increase in height. The new towers will not be located in the footprint of the existing ones, they will however be installed in close proximity. Both new towers will be equipped with a platform, to ensure safe access to the towers for maintenance purposes.

Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 outlines the consenting strategy for the installation or maintenance of overhead lines ('OHLs'). There are exceptions to requiring Section 37 consent, as detailed in the Overhead Lines (Exemption) (England and Wales) Regulations 2009. Notably, Regulation 3(1)(f) states that '*the installation or maintenance of one or more additional poles to support an existing line*' would be exempt from requiring Section 37 consent, provided they meet the limitations and restrictions in Regulations 4 and 5.

Subject to the Council's agreement, the proposed works are considered exempt from required Section 37 Consent by virtue of satisfying the limitations on the exemptions contained in Regulation 3(1)(f) for the following reasons:

- **Nominal Voltage:** There will be no change to the nominal voltage of the overhead line, as detailed within 4(1)(a).
- **Compliance with Original Consent:** All conditions of the original Section 37 Consent will be complied with, ensuring that the project adheres to previously agreed-upon standards and regulations.
- **Height Increase:** The height above the surface of the ground of any support for the electric line does not exceed the height of the highest existing support or the support being replaced by more than 10%. In this case, the new towers represent a 7.9% increase therefore ensuring that the modifications are minor and do not significantly alter the existing infrastructure.
- **Position of Supports:** The new towers will not result in a deviation of the line by more than 60m from the existing large support (>10m in height).
- **Replacement Timeline:** The existing towers and connecting line will be removed within a period of 12-months from the date on which the installation of the new infrastructure which it replaces is completed.
- **Environmental Considerations:** The works are not proposed within a sensitive area as defined by the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.

As per the relevant guidance, the Local Planning Authority should screen notifications and provide a response within **6 weeks** advising if they have no objections or wish to invoke the full section 37 consent process for the proposal. If no response is received within 6 weeks, it is assumed that the Council does not wish to comment/have no objections to the proposed development.

Wokingham Borough Council is therefore requested to indicate that it has no objection to the work being carried out by returning two copies of this Form with the Certificate completed and signed.

Yours faithfully

Becky Anderson

For and on behalf of SEPD

CERTIFICATE

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE RELEVANT PLANNING AUTHORITY AND RETURNED TO THE APPLICANT WITHIN SIX WEEKS OF RECEIPT
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The Wokingham Borough Council

*(i) objects/does not object for the proposed development detailed above to be undertaken under the exemptions laid down in The Overhead Lines (Exemption) (England and Wales) Regulations 2009

* (ii) wishes/does not wish the Secretary of State to consider the application using the full section 37 process under the Electricity Act 1989

*The reasons for requesting the full section 37 process are:

Dated:

Signed:

Designation

(On behalf of the Wokingham Borough Council)

**Delete as appropriate*