



Application by SP Manweb PLC, dated 2 December 2009 for consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 to install and keep installed a 132kV overhead electric line connection from the proposed Llandinam Wind Farm to Welshpool Substation (the "Application")

**BRIEFING NOTE ON SP MID WALES CONNECTION PROJECT
SP MANWEB**

February 2014

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 SP Manweb has previously offered to the Mid Wales Conjoined Public Inquiry to provide a briefing note on the information that is already in the public domain in respect of its proposed SP Mid Wales Connection Project (which is being progressed pursuant to the Planning Act 2008 regime and is outwith the remit of the Mid Wales Conjoined Public Inquiry). More information on the SP Mid Wales Connections Project is available at <http://www.spmidwalesconnections.info>.

1.2 The purpose of this note is to provide further detail on the SP Mid Wales Connection Project in order to assist Session 4 of the Mid Wales Conjoined Public Inquiry.

1.3 This briefing note outlines:

1.3.1 the information on the SP Mid Wales Connections Project already published in the Updated Environmental Statement 2013 (the Updated ES 2013, CD/SPM/ES/01) submitted on 29 October 2013 for the proposed 132kV overhead electric line connection from the proposed Llandinam Wind Farm to Welshpool Substation (the Llandinam Scheme);

1.3.2 the information published in September 2013, when SP Manweb commenced Stage 3 of pre-application consultation for the SP Mid Wales Connections Project; and

1.3.3 an update on the next steps to be taken.

1.4 Updated Environmental Statement 2013

1.5 Reference is made to the SP Mid Wales Connections Project in Chapter 3 of the Updated ES 2013 Volume 1 and in the Alternatives Paper in Volume 5 and reference is made in both documents to the SP Mid Wales Connections Project website (<http://www.spmidwalesconnections.info>).

1.6 Paragraph 3.2.21 of the Updated ES then briefly describes the project as comprising the following:

1.6.1 'In relation to the TAN 8 SSA B area, two 132kV connections from five wind farms in SSA B, a connection from four wind farms in SSA B North (which it proposes to connect via a design of mostly single circuits comprising wood poles) and a connection from one wind farm in SSA B South (which it proposes to connect via a 132kV single circuit wood pole line);

- 1.6.2 In relation to the TAN 8 SSA C area, a single circuit connection from three wind farms (Llanbadarn Fynydd, Llaithddu, and Neuadd Goch Wind Farms), along a route corridor that SP Manweb has labelled CC1...'
- 1.7 Figure 6.1 in the Alternatives paper (Volume 5 of the Updated ES) outlines the SP Mid Wales Connections project in relation to the Llandinam Scheme.
- 1.8 The updated position regarding contracted connections is as set out in the Powys Wind Farm Table January 2014 (CD/SPM/016).
- 1.9 **Stage Three Pre-application Consultations**
- 1.10 Stage Three Consultation for the SP Mid Wales Connections Project commenced in September 2013 when SP Manweb published:
- 1.10.1 A Revised Consultation Strategy September 2013.
<http://www.spmidwalesconnections.info/english/pdf/Revised%20Consultation%20Strategy.pdf>
- 1.10.2 A Revised Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)
http://www.spmidwalesconnections.info/english/pdf/Stage_3_SoCC_ENG.pdf
- 1.11 The Revised SOCC was published in a local newspaper on 26th September 2013. It included reference to the SP Mid Wales Connections Project being a separate project to the current Mid Wales Conjoined Public Inquiry.
- 1.12 Paragraph 2.9 of the Revised SoCC presents the revised proposals for the SP Mid Wales Connections Project:
- 1.12.1 From SSA B North, an approximately 11km 132kV single circuit overhead line from the proposed Dyfnant Forest Wind Farm, an approximately 1km 132kV single circuit overhead line from the proposed Rhyd Ddu Wind Farm, and two approximately 4km 132kV single circuit overhead lines from the proposed Llanbrynmair and Carnedd Wen Wind Farms, all based on a heavy duty wood pole design, that would connect into an approximately 2km 132kV double circuit overhead tower line based on an L7 pylon design, which would connect into the proposed National Grid substation;
- 1.12.2 From SSA B South, an approximately 10km 132kV overhead line wood pole connection from Carno Wind Farm into the proposed National Grid substation. A section of this connection will follow the already consented Tirgwynt route; and
- 1.12.3 From SSA C, an approximately 30km 132kV overhead line wood pole connection from the proposed Llanbadarn and Llaithdu Wind Farms, based on a heavy duty wood pole design passing via a new 132/33kV grid transformer substation into which would connect approximately 1km of 33kV single circuit overhead wood pole line from Neuadd Goch Wind Farm, into the proposed National Grid substation.
- 1.13 A Project Update newsletter provided at Appendix 1 of this briefing note explained that SP Manweb was presenting its suggested line routes to local communities. The newsletter folded out to provide an A1 map of the project (1:50,000 scale) showing the suggested line routes within the preferred route corridors brought forward from Stage Two. The newsletter also included information on the proposed wood poles and steel towers.

- 1.14 As part of Stage Three Consultation, SP Manweb has published five reports explaining how feedback from both Stage Two and Stage Two A Consultation has been reviewed and has informed decision making on the three preferred route corridors that were taken forward to Stage Three Consultation. The five reports are:
- 1.14.1 Supplementary Preferred Route Corridor Report September 2013 – which summarised the conclusions of the following reports and provided a recommendation for the three preferred route corridors to be taken forward to Stage Three Consultation (<http://www.spmidwalesconnections.info/english/pdf/Supplementary%20Preferred%20Route%20Corridor%20Report.pdf>);
 - 1.14.2 Third Strategic Optioneering Report September 2013 – which assessed the technical viability of the available options (<http://www.spmidwalesconnections.info/english/pdf/Third%20Strategic%20Optioneering%20Report.pdf>);
 - 1.14.3 Stage Two Consultation Feedback Report September 2013 – which reviewed the consultation feedback received for Stages Two and Two A and gave a summary of how the feedback has been considered (<http://www.spmidwalesconnections.info/english/pdf/Stage%20%20Consultation%20Feedback%20Report.pdf>);
 - 1.14.4 Supplementary Routeing Methodology & Route Corridors Appraisal - Stage Two Report September 2013– which assessed the environmental impact for each of the route corridors (<http://www.spmidwalesconnections.info/english/pdf/Supplementary%20Routeing%20Methodology%20&%20Route%20Corridors%20Appraisal%20-%20Stage%20Two%20Report.pdf>);
 - 1.14.5 Line Routeing Methodology & Appraisal Phase 3 Report September 2013 (<http://www.spmidwalesconnections.info/english/pdf/Line%20Routeing%20Methodology%20&%20Appr%20-%20Phase%203%20Report.pdf>).
- 1.15 SP Manweb is currently reviewing feedback following the end of Stage Three Consultation (which closed on 6 December 2013) and to date has received 362 feedback responses.
- 1.16 The relevant line routes in a Mid Wales Connections Project context for the wind farms in the Mid Wales Conjoined Inquiry (and as presented in the newsletter) are as follows:
- 1.16.1 SSA B
 - (a) Llandbrynmair – BNC3
 - (b) Carnedd Wen – BNC4
 - 1.16.2 SSA C
 - (a) Llanbadarn Fynydd – CC1
 - (b) Llaithddu – CC1
- 1.17 **Update on the next steps**
- 1.18 SP Manweb is currently reviewing feedback received during Stage Three Consultation and this involves considering comments alongside technical and environmental considerations. The outcome of this work will be the preferred line

routes and these will be announced as Stage Four of the Consultation process, in Spring 2014.

1.19 This timetable is in line with the Revised SoCC which outlined the current project programme as follows:

1.19.1 Consultation Stage One on route corridor options - **completed**

1.19.2 Consultation Stage Two on preferred route corridor options resulting from Consultation Stage One and wood pole corridor and substation options - **completed**

1.19.3 Consultation Stage Three on suggested line routes – October 2013 - December 2013

1.19.4 Consultation Stage Four feeding back to the local community on Stage Three consultation - Early Spring 2014

1.19.5 Consultation Stage Five on the proposed scheme for submission - Autumn 2014

1.20 Stage Four Consultation will advise that the preferred line routes will form the basis of detailed environmental and technical surveys and assessments.

APPENDIX 1 PROJECT UPDATE 5