

Glyn Rhonwy Pumped Storage Development Consent Order

Introduction to the Applicant



PINS Reference	EN010072	
Document No.	1.01	
Regulation	5(2)(q)	
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Revision	Date	Description
0	October 2015	Submission Version

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1. Introduction

1.1 This document provides information on the application by Snowdonia Pumped Hydro Limited ("SPH"), for the Glyn Rhonwy Pumped Storage Order (the "Order"). SPH is applying to the Secretary of State under the Planning Act 2008 (the "Act") for powers to construct, operate and maintain:

- a pumped hydro storage facility at Glyn Rhonwy, Gwynedd, (the "Development"), consisting of the following:
- one headpond (Quarry 1 (Q1) – Chwarel Fawr), its dam, access shaft and spillway infrastructure to the Nant Y Betws;
- one tailpond (Quarry (Q6) – Glyn Rhonwy), its dam, access shaft and spillway infrastructure to Llyn Padarn;
- a pumping station at Llyn Padarn for the initial abstraction of water from Llyn Padarn for use in the system, and any subsequent abstraction that may be necessary to 'top up' levels within the pumped storage system
- a power house at Glyn Rhonwy Industrial Estate Platform 5 (south of Q6) comprising the power house, and ancillary buildings and equipment consisting of up to two underground turbines (with a combined electrical output of up to 99.9 MW;) and pumps approximately 70m below ground level, and ancillary buildings and equipment (the "generating station");
- a penstock (connecting Q1 to the power house); and
- a tailrace (connecting the power house to Q6).

1.2 The Development is described in more detail in Chapter 3 of the Environmental Statement (ES) accompanying the application (Document number 6.02). The works described above referred to in this Statement as the "Development".

1.3 As the Development comprises an electricity generating plant with a gross electrical output in excess of 50MW, it falls within the definition of a "nationally

significant infrastructure project" (NSIP) under section 15(2)(c) of the Planning Act 2008 ("the Act"). It is, therefore, necessary for SPH to apply to the Secretary of State for development consent to construct, operate and maintain the Project under Section 31 of the Act.

- 1.4 Background information on the applicant and the process of applying for development consent is provided below together with information on the suite of documents that comprise the application.

2. Project Details

- 2.1 SPH is seeking to develop the generating station, together with the integral dams, reservoirs, penstock, tailrace, spillways, and pumping station as well as other works on the slopes of Cefn Du mountain above Llyn Padarn, approximately 1.5km north west of Llanberis and 11km south east of the town of Caernarfon in the County Borough of Gwynedd.
- 2.2 The Project is a pumped hydro electricity storage facility with an energy storage capacity of 1,300,00m³ cubic metres of stored water and a peak power output of 99.9MWe. The Development covers an area of approximately 91.24 ha and comprises several disused quarry pits and slate tips. The slopes around the quarries are built up with slate waste and interspersed with the remains of outhouses and quarry workings, scattered over steep grazing land. The neighbouring land is primarily agricultural. Three adopted highways cross the site, including the A4086, Ffordd Clegir and an unnamed road (locally known as 'the Green Road'), as well as several Public Rights of Way (PRoW). The development will be connected to the electricity distribution network via a new electrical connection. This will be exported from an onsite substation, adjacent to the power house to an offsite connection point at Pentir. The electrical connection does not form part of the DCO. The Development has an estimated lifespan of 125 years.
- 2.3 Pumped Storage is a way of storing electricity by turning electrical energy into stored (or potential) energy and back again. The system uses electricity to pump water from a lower reservoir to a higher reservoir. Pumping would normally happen during the night when electricity demand is low. During the day, the water is allowed back through a hydro-turbine to generate electricity again to meet sudden spikes in consumer electricity demand. This cycle of pumping and generating repeats on a daily basis.

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- 2.4 The UK electricity network relies on the generation of electricity from several sources, more traditionally through baseload thermal generation plants such as coal, gas and also nuclear. These generators all provide power to keep the electricity at a steady 50 Hertz (Hz), essential to the smooth operation of electrical equipment throughout the UK.
- 2.5 The overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (NPS EN-1) recognises that the UK needs to reduce its reliance upon fossil fuels and invest in more sustainable, renewable energy. By 2050, it is expected that fossil fuels will be scarcer, and costs of extraction and therefore supply will be higher. As the UK moves towards an increased proportion of its electricity being generated from renewable sources, it will become more difficult to balance supply and demand across the grid. This is because the power generated through renewable sources is not as predictable as traditional methods, meaning that there is an increasing requirement for grid-scale batteries.
- 2.6 Pumped Storage generators are able to start extremely rapidly from cold start and even quicker from standby mode, in some cases achieving full power within 15 seconds. Compared to thermal power stations which can take several hours to reach full generating capacity, pumped storage has the ability to store and generate large quantities of energy, making such facilities the most flexible of all electrical generation technologies. Therefore, at times of peak demand, pumped storage has the unique ability to provide electricity quickly. This is recognised in NPS EN-1.
- 2.7 NPS EN-1 refers specifically to electrical energy storage, and states that high renewable pathways will require more storage into the future. Although pumped storage itself is not a form of renewable energy, it can be considered 'low carbon' due to the fact that such facilities are essential in the shift towards a low carbon electricity system (and as the generation of electricity does not directly involve the burning of fossil fuels). Essentially, increasing renewable energy production

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- creates a requirement for electricity storage facilities. NPS EN-1 acknowledges that storage will play an important role in a low carbon electricity system.
- 2.8 Schedule 1 to the draft Development Consent Order ("the Order") (Document Reference 3.01) sets out the formal description of the Project. The limits within which the Project elements may be constructed are shown on the Works Plans (Document Reference 2.04). All these Project elements form, or are integral to, the NSIP for which the Applicant is seeking development consent under the Act. Accordingly, the Application does not seek authorisation for any associated development.
- 2.9 Although SPH owns land within the Order limits, the development of the Project will require the acquisition of interests in land, rights under and over land and the temporary use of land. SPH has to date completed agreements to acquire the rights to the freehold of a large proportion of the development site, and is seeking powers in the Order to compulsory acquire any other rights required to deliver the project. SPH is also seeking a power to extinguish or suspend any private rights over the land within the Order limits which would interfere with the activities authorised by the Order.
- 2.10 The Land Plans (Document Reference 2.03) shows the land over which rights may be acquired and the land in relation to which it is proposed to suspend and/or extinguish private rights. The Book of Reference (Document Reference 4.03) describes this land in more detail and the Statement of Reasons (Document Reference 4.01) explains why powers of compulsory acquisition are being sought in the Order.
- 2.11 Consultation on the Development has been carried out by SPH since October 2014, taking the form of multiple stages of non-statutory consultation and a stage of statutory consultation. Throughout, SPH has liaised regularly with Gwynedd Council as well as key stakeholders such as Natural Resources Wales. The Consultation Report (Document Reference 5.01) provides full details of the

consultation, the responses received and how SPH has had regard to the consultation in finalising its proposals for the Development.

3. Introduction to the Applicant

- 3.1 Snowdonia Pumped Hydro Limited the applicant for the DCO is a company incorporated in England (Company Number 8644844) with registered office of 1 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7SH.
- 3.2 SPH is an operational subsidiary of Quarry Battery Company Limited (“QBC”) (Company Number 07344961).
- 3.3 QBC was established to develop new large scale electricity storage projects that are considered a fundamental requirement in decarbonising the UK electricity infrastructure and which accommodate higher volumes of intermittent renewable generation.
- 3.4 SPH was established as a special purpose vehicle to progress the proposed development. Currently QBC holds a majority shareholding in SPH.
- 3.5 SPH has appointed the following as its external consultants in respect of the Project:
- AECOM – environmental services and production of the EIA;
 - Bilfinger GVA – planning and property services; and
 - Burges Salmon – legal services.

4. The DCO Pre-application & Consenting Process

- 4.1 The Development, comprising an electricity generating plant with a gross electrical output in excess of 50MW, is a NSIP and therefore requires development consent under the Act. Accordingly, SPH has carried out pre-application consultation on the Project in accordance with Part 5, Chapter 2 of the Act including the consultation required under Sections 42, 47 and 48 and the notification and other duties under the Act and applicable Regulations.
- 4.2 In addition, SPH has had regard to and complied with relevant guidance issued by the Secretary of State and the Planning Inspectorate in carrying out its pre-application consultation. The Application is accompanied by a Consultation Report (Document Reference 5.01) which explains the pre-application consultation carried out as well as the regard that SPH has had to consultation responses in formulating the Application.
- 4.3 The Application seeks powers to construct, operate and maintain the Project as well as powers to compulsorily acquire rights over land. The draft Order (Document Reference 3.01) contains these powers, which are explained in the Explanatory Memorandum (Document Reference 3.02).
- 4.4 The Development Site during construction extends across registered Common land and designated Access Land registered under the Countryside and Rights Of Way Act 2000 (“CROW Act”). The Applicant has produced a Common, Access Land and Public Rights of Way Strategy (Document Reference 4.04) to explain the approach adopted in relation to Common land, Access Land and Public Rights of Way (“PRoWs”) and to explain how the public interest will be protected throughout the Development.
- 4.5 Applications for development consent are made to the Planning Inspectorate, which examines and then reports on the proposals to the relevant Secretary of State. In the case of the Project, the Planning Inspectorate will examine the Project and report (together with a recommendation) to the Secretary of State for

Energy and Climate Change, who will then decide whether or not to make the development consent Order ("DCO").

- 4.6 Further information on the processes that the Planning Inspectorate follows after submission of the Application by SPH is provided in section 6 below. Reference should also be made to the information on the Planning Inspectorate's website: <http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/>.

5. The Application Documents & their Compliance with Legislative Requirements

5.1 This section of the document provides a guide to the application submission made by SPH. As well as providing a list of the main application documents, it also identifies where documents are submitted in order to comply with a relevant legislative or policy requirement. The application submission is split into 7 volumes (an overview of the content of each volume is provided later in this section in Table 2):

Table 1: Overview of the DCO Application Volumes	
Volume	Content
1. Application Information	provide details of the specific application information required by the Planning Inspectorate
2. Plans / Drawings / Sections	contain the information of where SPH proposes to undertake the development should it be authorised, as well as the limits within which the authorised development (the Development) can be carried out and maintained, works to accesses and public rights of way, landscaping and design drawings
3. Draft Development Consent Order	outlines the legal powers SPH is seeking to construct and install, operate and maintain the Development.
4. Compulsory Acquisition Information	the documents provide evidence of why SPH requires the ability to compulsorily acquire and how it would fund such acquisition.
5. Consultation and Other Information	provide details of the pre- application consultation undertaken by SPH for the Development and other information relevant to the application such as the Statement of Statutory Nuisance

6. Environmental Statement	reports the assessment of the likely impacts of the Development on the environment
7. Other Documents	includes additional documents produced to support the application including the Planning Statement and Design & Access Statement

5.2 The legislative requirements for applications for a DCO are principally contained in the Act, the following Regulations:

- Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 ("APFP Regulations")
- Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 ("EIA Regulations")

5.3 Regulation 5 of the APFP Regulations sets out the documents that all development consent applications must include and Regulation 6 sets out the documents that particular types of development consent applications must include – those relating to generating stations are relevant to the Project. References in Table 1 below such as "Reg. 5(2)(b)" are to the APFP Regulations and those such as "S.37(3)(c)" are to the Planning Act 2008.

5.4 Regulation 5 of the APFP Regulations includes a category described as "any other documents considered necessary to support the application" (Reg. 5(2)(q)). Similarly Regulation 5 also allows SPH to submit other plans, drawings and sections that are necessary to describe the Project (Reg. 5(2)(o)). The documents provided by SPH, and marked as relating to those two paragraphs of the APFP Regulations, are therefore not statutorily required but are those which SPH considers necessary to support the Application.

5.5 The Application submitted for the Project complies with the requirements of the Act, the APFP Regulations, the EIA Regulations and applicable Secretary of State and Planning Inspectorate guidance, including in particular Planning

Inspectorate Advice Note 6 (Preparation and submission of application documents, October 2014).

5.6 With respect to the submitted plans and drawings, these comply with the requirements set out in 'The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms And Procedures) Regulations 2009' with the exception of those that are required to show the site in its wider context and therefore need to use a different scale than 1:2500 in order to be comprehensible. The plans that are submitted at a different scale (but on A1 sheets) include the following:

- Site location plan (1:125,000 @ A1)
- Existing Site Layout Plan (1:5,000 @ A1)
- Works Plan Key Plan (1:5,000 @ A1)
- Works Plans (1:2,000 @ A1)
- Nature conservation sites, habitats and diversity features (1:10,000 @ A1)
- Sites of Landscape Importance (1:10,000 @ A1)
- Water framework directive Water bodies (1:12,500 @ A1)
- Historic Environment Features (1:10,000 @ A1)
- Public Rights of Way – Existing (1:5,000 @ A1)
- Public Rights of Way During Construction (1:5,000 @ A1)
- Public Rights of Way During Operation (1:5,000 @ A1)
- Access Plan (1:5,000 @ A1)

5.7 Table 2 below provides a list of the main application documents and identifies where documents are submitted in order to comply with a relevant legislative or policy requirement.

Table 2 Guide to the DCO Application Documents

Volume	Ref	Document	Statutory Requirement (APFP Regs unless otherwise stated)
1. Application form	1.01	Introduction to the Applicant and the Application	Reg. 5(2)(q)
	1.01W	Introduction to the Applicant and the Application (Welsh translation)	Reg. 5(2)(q)
	1.02	Application Form	s.37(3)(b) and Reg. 5(1)
	1.03	s55 Application Checklist	
2. Plans / Drawings / Sections	2.01	Location Plan	Reg. 5(2)(o)
	2.02	Existing Site Layout Plan	Reg. 5(2)(o)
	2.03	Land Plans (Key Plan and Sheets 1 - 2)	Reg. 5(2)(i)
	2.04	Works Plans (Key Plan and Sheets 1 – 3)	Reg. 5(2)(j)
	2.05	Indicative Site Layout Plan (Key Plan and Sheets 1 – 5)	Reg. 5(2)(o)

Volume	Ref	Document	Statutory Requirement (APFP Regs unless otherwise stated)
	2.06	Indicative Elevations, Sections and Floorplans	Reg. 5(2)(o)
	2.07	Plans of Nature Conservation Sites / Sites of Landscape Importance / Water Bodies	Reg.5(2)(l)
	2.08	Plan of Historic Environment Features	Reg.5(2)(m)
	2.09	Public Right of Way and Access Plan	Reg.5(2)(k)
	2.10	Crown Land Plan	Reg.5(2)(n)
3. Draft DCO	3.01	Draft Development Consent Order	Reg. 5(2)(b)
	3.02	Explanatory Memorandum	Reg. 5(2)(c)
4. Compulsory Acquisition Information	4.01	Statement of Reasons	Reg. 5(2)(h)
	4.02	Funding Statement	Reg. 5(2)(h)
	4.02W	Funding Statement (Welsh Translation)	Reg. 5(2)(h)
	4.03	Book of Reference	Reg. 5(2)(d) and Reg. 7

Volume	Ref	Document	Statutory Requirement (APFP Regs unless otherwise stated)
	4.04	Common, Access Land & Public Right of Way Strategy	Reg. 5(2)(q)
5. Reports / Statements	5.01	Consultation Report	s.37(3)(c) and (7)
	5.01.1	Summary of Consultation Report	s.37(3)(c) and (7)
	5.01.1W	Summary of Consultation Report (Welsh translation)	s.37(3)(c) and (7)
	5.02	Statement in respect of Statutory Nuisance	Reg. 5(2)(f)
	5.03	No Significant Effects Report	Reg. 5(2)(g)
	5.04	Details of Other Consents and Licences	Reg. 5(2)(q)
6. Environmental Impact Assessment	6.01	Environmental Statement Vol.1: Non-Technical Summary	Reg. 5(2)(a) and EIA Regs
	6.01W	Environmental Statement Vol.1: Non-Technical Summary (Welsh translation)	Reg. 5(2)(a) and EIA Regs

Volume	Ref	Document	Statutory Requirement (APFP Regs unless otherwise stated)
	6.02	<p>Environmental Statement Vol.2</p> <p>Document organised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vol.2A : Main Text ▪ Vol.2B : Main Text 	<p>Reg. 5(2)(a) and EIA Regs</p> <p>Document 6.02 includes within it the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Assessment of any effects on sites or features of nature conservation (etc), at ES Chapter 7 Ecology, subsection 7.11 (Reg.5(2)(l)); and (ii) Assessment of any effects on sites or features of the historic environment, at ES Chapter 11 Archaeology and Cultural Heritage, subsection 11.11 (Reg.(5)(2)(m)).
	6.03	<p>Environmental Statement Vol.3: Appendices</p> <p>Document organised into Vols. 3A – 3I.</p>	<p>1.1 Reg. 5(2)(a) and EIA Regs</p> <p>Document 6.03 includes within it the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Environmental impact scoping report and scoping opinion at ES Appendix 2.3 and Appendix 2.4 (Reg.5(2)(a)); (ii) Flood Consequences Assessment at Appendix 10.1 (Reg. 5(2)(e)); (iii) Code of Construction Practice (in outline) at Appendix 16.1 (Reg. 5(2)(q)) which will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water Management Plan (WTMP)

Volume	Ref	Document	Statutory Requirement (APFP Regs unless otherwise stated)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pollution Prevention Plan (PPP) ▪ Dust Management Plan (DMP) ▪ Waste Management Plan (WMP) ▪ Reinstatement / Landscape Plan ▪ Land Discovery Strategy ▪ Construction Site Safety Plan ▪ Noise Management Plan (NMP) ▪ Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) ▪ Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) ▪ Emergency Response and Flood Management Plan (ERFMP) ▪ Habitat Management Plan (HMP)
	6.04	Environmental Statement Vol.4: Figures & LVIA Photomontages Document organised into Vols. 4A – 4E	Reg.5(2)(q)

Volume	Ref	Document	Statutory Requirement (APFP Regs unless otherwise stated)
7. Additional Information for Specific Types of Infrastructure	7.01	Grid Connection Statement	Reg.5(2)(p) and Reg.6(1)(a)(i)
8. Other documents	8.01	Planning Statement	Reg. 5(2)(q)
	8.02	Planning Statement Summary	Reg. 5(2)(q)
	8.02W	Planning Statement Summary (Welsh Translation)	Reg. 5(2)(q)
	8.03	Design & Access Statement	Reg. 5(2)(q)
	8.02W	Design & Access Statement (Welsh Translation)	Reg. 5(2)(q)
	8.04	Glossary	Reg. 5(2)(q)

6. The DCO Application and Examination Process

- 6.1 The outline process for considering the Application is outlined below.
- 6.2 The Planning Inspectorate has 28 days from the date that the Application is made to decide whether to accept it for examination.
- 6.3 Following acceptance by the Planning Inspectorate, SPH will carry out its post-acceptance consultation and notification duties. This includes site notice and advertisements in a local newspaper, a national newspaper and the London Gazette, all confirming certain details including that the Application has been accepted and how representations can be made about it, as well as notices to various statutory consultees.
- 6.4 The Planning Inspectorate will then appoint one or more 'examining inspectors' (known as the examining authority) to examine the Application. The examining authority will consider the Application documents and the representations and invite all parties to attend a 'preliminary meeting', setting out what the examining authority considers to be the principal issues relating to the Project, and a draft timetable for examining it. At or before the preliminary meeting, participants may make submissions about how the Application should be examined. The preliminary meeting does not consider issues of substance relating to the Application.
- 6.5 Following the preliminary meeting, the examining authority will issue an examination timetable and it is also likely to issue an initial set of written questions. The timetable will give details of deadlines for submitting written representations, commenting on others' representations, answering the examining authorities' questions and commenting on others' answers. Hearings may be scheduled at this point, or these may be programmed at a later time, and further questions and requests for information may be issued by the examining authority. Further information on participating in the examination of the

Application can be found on the Planning Inspectorate's website including in the Advice Notes it has issued.

- 6.6 The examination period (which includes the submission of all written material as well as holding hearings and site visits) starts from the date of the preliminary meeting and must take no more than six months. This can only be extended with the authorisation of the Secretary of State.
- 6.7 Following the end of the six month examination period, the examining authority must submit a report to the Secretary of State within three months, who then has a further three months to determine the Application.
- 6.8 Gwynedd Council will have a very important role to play in the DCO process. They will be invited by the Planning Inspectorate to comment on the quality of SPH's consultation process, to produce a Local Impact Report on the Development and to make their own representations to the Planning Inspectorate on the Application.
- 6.9 SPH welcomes correspondence from interested parties in relation to the Development - questions relating to the examination process should be directed to the Planning Inspectorate.

7. Glossary

"Act"	means the Planning Act 2008.
"APFP Regulations"	means the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009.
"Application"	means the application for a DCO made to the Secretary of State under section 37 of the Act in respect of the proposed Glyn Rhonwy Pumped Storage Order.
"DCO"	means a development consent order made by the Secretary of State pursuant to the Act to authorise a nationally significant infrastructure project.
"EIA Regulations"	means the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009.
"MW"	means megawatts electrical.
"Order Limits"	means the limits shown on the Works Plans within which the proposed development may be carried out.
"PINS"	Means the Planning Inspectorate National Infrastructure Directorate.