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To interested parties, statutory parties
and other persons invited to the
preliminary meeting

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010072

Date: 16 March 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and the Infrastructure Planning
(Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rule 8 (as amended)**

**Application by Snowdonia Pumped Hydro Limited for an Order Granting
Development Consent for the Glyn Rhonwy Pumped Storage Scheme.**

Examination timetable and procedure

I write to tell you about the procedural decisions following the Preliminary Meeting held on 8 March 2016; the Open Floor hearing also held on 8 March 2016; and the Issue Specific hearing on the draft Development Consent Order held on 9 March 2016 at Mynydd Gwefru Electric Mountain, Llanberis, Gwynedd, LL55 4UR. This letter also provides you with the examination timetable and a link to the initial questions that I am asking in the examination and other matters.

The paragraph below explains that this letter is available in the Welsh language:

Mae'r llythyr hwn ar gael yn Gymraeg ar ein gwefan a gellir darparu copi ar gais:

<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/document/3772694>

All documentation associated with this project, including a note of the Preliminary Meeting and the audio recording taken at that meeting can be found using this link:

<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/wales/glyn-rhonwy-pumped-storage/>

An advice note about how to get involved in the examination can be found on the Planning Inspectorate webpage or can be requested via the case manager.

<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/advice-note-8.5.pdf>

Procedural decisions

I have made my procedural decisions about the way in which the proposal is to be examined. The examination timetable is attached as **Annex B** and includes the deadlines by which certain information should be submitted. **This examination timetable replaces the draft examination timetable that was included with the Rule 6 letter dated 9 February 2016.** The draft examination timetable, incorporating changes made after the Preliminary Meeting is set out in **Annex B**. Your attention is drawn to the introduction of a new Deadline 6 on Friday 24 June 2016 to allow for consideration of submissions at deadline 5 in preparing the final draft DCO (if the hearings at items 18 and 19 are not held) and the consequential renumbering of the following deadlines. The examination timetable has sought to accommodate requests made at the Preliminary Meeting.

If I consider it necessary to vary the timetable (set out in **Annex B**), I will notify interested parties and 'other persons' invited to the Preliminary Meeting (reference numbers beginning with OP) and publish the changes on our website.

Deadlines for receipt of submissions

It is important to note that if you do not submit the information by the dates specified in the timetable, I may disregard it.

Any submissions that exceed 1500 words should also be accompanied by a summary. This summary should not exceed 10% of the original text. The summary should set out the key facts of the written representation and must be representative of the submission made.

All deadlines are 12 noon on the date stated. I request that interested parties send, where practicable, electronic copies of their submissions as email attachments, to GlynRhonwy@pins.gsi.gov.uk on or before the applicable deadline. Electronic attachments should be clearly labelled with subject title and not exceed 12MB for each email. **Providing links to websites where your submissions or evidence can be viewed is not acceptable.** All documents, once accepted into the examination by me, must be able to be viewed in full on our website. Timely submissions in advance of the deadlines set in the timetable are encouraged. If interested parties prefer to issue submissions in hard copy by post, please ensure they arrive by the deadline to be certain they will be taken into account.

If no written requests are received for open floor hearings or compulsory acquisition hearings by the deadline specified in **Annex B**, I am not required to hold any such hearings. I may nevertheless choose to do so.

The time, date and place of any confirmed hearing, and subject of any Issue Specific Hearing, will be notified in writing to all registered interested parties providing at least 21 days' notice. Agendas will be provided on the website at least 7 days before any confirmed hearing.

Below I have explained some of the submissions requested in the timetable in greater detail for your information, however please refer to **Annex B** for all submission deadlines for this proposal.

Examining Authority's First Round of Written Questions

I have decided to ask a number of written questions. These questions are now published on our website and can be accessed through the following link:

<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/document/3772905>

The deadline for responses to these questions is listed in the examination timetable in **Annex B**.

Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) and Local Impact Reports (LIRs)

In my Rule 6 letter dated 9 February 2016 I requested SoCGs. I now formally invite submission of completed SoCGs, and any draft SoCGs, by the deadline listed in the examination timetable at **Annex B**.

Local authorities defined in s56A of the PA 2008 are invited to submit LIRs by the deadline specified in **Annex B**.

Written representations

I also invite all interested parties to submit written representations and comments on relevant representations already submitted by the deadline specified in **Annex B**.

There is no prescribed form for written representations. Written representations can deal with any relevant matter. They are not restricted to the matters set out in my Initial Assessment of Principal Issues which were set out in Annex C of my letter of 9 February 2016, nor restricted to the questions I have asked. Please note that under Rule 10(4) of the Examination Procedure Rules any person, other than the applicant, who submits a written representation must identify in their written representation those parts of the proposal relevant to their representation with which they agree and those parts with which they do not agree, and must state the reasons for such disagreement.

Furthermore, in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's 'Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008): Guidance for the examination of applications for development consent (March 2013)' (<http://bit.ly/1Bf8qFY>), participants should provide with their written statements, 'the data, methodology and assumptions used to support their submissions'.

Notification of a wish to attend a hearing

I now request notifications from –

(a) any interested party who wishes to be heard at an open floor hearing on the evening of Monday 16 May 2016;

(b) any affected person who wishes to make oral representations at a compulsory acquisition hearing on the afternoon of Wednesday 18 May 2016; and

These notifications must be received by the deadline specified in **Annex B**.

If an interested party wishes to make an oral representation at an open floor or issue specific hearing they should indicate which topics they wish to address at the hearing. Similarly, any affected person wishing to make an oral representation at a compulsory acquisition hearing should identify clearly the plots of land about which they wish to speak and the matters that they wish to address at the hearing.

Procedure at hearings and notification of wish to speak at hearings

The procedure to be followed at hearings is set out in Rule 14 of the Examination Procedure Rules (<http://bit.ly/1wLTj8E>). Any oral representations must be based on either the relevant or written representations made by the person by whom or on whose behalf the oral representations are made. I shall be responsible for the oral questioning of a person giving evidence but your attention is drawn to Rule 14(5) of the Rules and the circumstances that apply to cross-questioning between parties.

My examination will be principally undertaken through a written process, and I will decide whether a hearing on a particular issue or topic is necessary. This decision is not connected to how relevant or important I consider an issue or topic to be.

The paragraph below asks parties who wish to make oral submissions in the Welsh Language to give us notice of their intention, and explains that a translation service will be available:

Os hoffech gwneud cyfraniadau drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg yn ystod y gwrandawid dylech nodi ni o'ch dymuniad i wneud hyn gan fydd cyfieithydd ar gael.

Site inspections

I have undertaken (and will continue to undertake) unaccompanied site inspections at times convenient to me.

I do wish to ensure that I have been to all the places that interested parties are most concerned for me to visit and will consider, as set out in the examination timetable in **Annex B**, any requests to visit other sites. Nominations for additional locations to be inspected must be received by the deadline. You must indicate the reason for the nomination and whether I can proceed with the inspection unaccompanied (and if not, why not). Please be aware that I cannot carry out unaccompanied inspections on private land or where special measures with regards to safety must be followed.

Please note that an accompanied site inspection is not an opportunity to make any oral representations on the proposal. However, I may invite participants to indicate specific features or sites of interest. Although there may be an opportunity for a small number of interested parties to attend an accompanied site visit, it is likely that attendance would need to be limited for logistical and safety reasons.

Habitats Assessment Regulations

Under the Habitats Regulations, in order to inform the Secretary of State as the Competent Authority, certain information needs to be provided and consultation undertaken, during the course of the examination. Deadlines are specified in **Annex B**.

Award of costs

You should be aware of the possibility of the award of costs against parties who behave unreasonably.

To assist understanding of what 'unreasonable behaviour' means in the context of an examination under the PA 2008 you may find it helpful to read the Government guidance: 'Awards of costs: examinations of applications for development consent orders (July 2013)' which can be found on the National Infrastructure Planning website (<http://bit.ly/1zV1wSq>).

Future notifications

If you are an interested party (reference beginning with 100 or GRPS-AFP) you will continue to receive correspondence from the Planning Inspectorate about the examination throughout the process.

If you have received this letter because you were invited to attend the Preliminary Meeting, but you are not an interested party (reference number beginning with OP) you will **not** receive any further communication from us relating to this proposal. You can, however, visit the relevant project page on our website to stay informed of the progress of the examination of the proposal.

If you are a statutory consultee, or a local authority without direct responsibility in the proposed development area, and have not made a relevant representation (reference number beginning with GRPS-SP) then you should inform the case manager if you wish to become a registered party by **13 April 2016**. **Statutory consultees who have not made a relevant representation and do not notify the case manager of their wish to become an interested party will not receive any further correspondence.**

If I require further information or written comments (a Rule 17 request) on the dates specified within Annex B, my request will be sent to only those persons to whom I consider it applicable, however it will be published on the Glyn Rhonwy project page of our website.

Management of Information

The Planning Inspectorate has a commitment to information transparency. Therefore, all information submitted for this project (if accepted) and a record of advice which the Planning Inspectorate have given can be found on our website together with the name of the person or organisation who asked for the advice. The privacy of any other personal information has been protected in accordance with our Information Charter.

Yours faithfully

Stuart Cowperthwaite

Stuart Cowperthwaite
Examining Authority

Annexes:

- A. Availability of representations and application documents
- B. Timetable for examination of the proposal
- C. Examining Authority's first round of written questions

Advice may be given about applying for an order granting development consent or making representations about an application (or a proposed application). This communication does not however constitute legal advice upon which you can rely and you should obtain your own legal advice and professional advice as required.

A record of the advice which is provided will be recorded on the Planning Inspectorate website together with the name of the person or organisation who asked for the advice. The privacy of any other personal information will be protected in accordance with our Information Charter which you should view before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.

Availability of relevant representations and application documents

Relevant representations and the application documents are available on our website:
<http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/projects/wales/glyn-rhonwy-pumped-storage/>

The documents are also available for electronic inspection and copying at:

Caernarfon Library Pavilion Road Caernarfon Gwynedd LL55 1AS	Opening times:	Monday	9.30am – 7.00pm
		Tuesday	9.30am – 7.00pm
		Wednesday	9.30am – 1.00pm
		Thursday	9.30am – 7.00pm
		Friday	9.30am – 7.00pm
		Saturday	9.30am – 1.00pm
		Sunday	CLOSED
		Copying charges:	A4 (black and white)
		A4 (colour)	50 p
		A3 (black and white)	20 p
	A3 (colour)	£1	
Gwynedd Council Headquarters Castle Street Caernarfon LL55 1SE	Opening times:	Monday	9.00am – 5.00pm
		Tuesday	9.00am – 5.00pm
		Wednesday	9.00am – 5.00pm
		Thursday	9.00am – 5.00pm
		Friday	9.00am – 5.00pm
		Saturday	9.00am – 5.00pm
		Sunday	CLOSED
		Copying charges:	A4 (black and white)
		A4 (colour)	50 p
		A3 (black and white)	20 p
	A3 (colour)	£1	
Llyfrgell Llanberis Library Capel Coch Road Llanberis LL55 4SH	Opening times:	Monday	CLOSED
		Tuesday	2.00pm – 6.00pm
		Wednesday	CLOSED
		Thursday	10.00am – 12.00pm
			1.00pm – 5.00pm
		Friday	2.00pm – 6.00pm
		Saturday	CLOSED
		Sunday	CLOSED
	Copying charges:	A4 (black and white)	10 p
		A4 (colour)	50 p

Timetable for examination of the application

The Examining Authority's (ExA) examination of the application takes the form of consideration of written representations about the application. The ExA will also consider any oral representations made at the hearings. The ExA is under a duty to **complete** the examination of the application by the end of the period of 6 months beginning with the day after the close of the Preliminary Meeting.

Item	Matters	Due Dates
1.	Preliminary Meeting	Tuesday 8 March 2016 (9.30 am to 12.30 pm)
2.	Open floor hearing	Tuesday 8 March 2016 (1.00 pm)
3.	Issue specific hearing relating to draft Development Consent Order (DCO) matters	Wednesday 9 March 2016
4.	Issue by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated examination timetable • ExA's first written questions 	Wednesday 16 March 2016
5.	Deadline 1 Deadline for receipt by ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-hearing documents including any written summary of an oral case put at a hearing and any documents/amendments requested by the ExA • The applicant's draft screening matrices summarising the effects on European sites as requested in Annex E • Comments on any additional representations and submissions received prior to the Preliminary Meeting • Any other information requested by the ExA under 17 of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (the Exam Rules) 	12 noon Wednesday 30 March 2016
6.	Deadline 2 Deadline for receipt by ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on relevant representations (RRs) • Summaries of all RRs exceeding 1500 words • Comments on the applicants draft screening matrices summarising the effects on European sites 	12 noon Wednesday 13 April 2016

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written Representations (WRs) by all interested parties. All parties should submit their full written case and supporting evidence at this stage, as any representations to be heard at a hearing should be based on the content of RRs or WRs. • Summaries of all WRs exceeding 1500 words • Local Impact Reports (LIRs) from any local authorities • Responses to the ExA’s first written questions • The applicant’s revised draft DCO • Statements of Common Ground • Comments on post-hearing documents • Responses to comments on any additional representations and submissions received prior to the Preliminary Meeting • Notification of wish to speak at a compulsory acquisition hearing • Notification of wish to make oral representations at any further issue specific hearings • Notification of wish to speak at a further open floor hearing • Representations relating to locations to view at the site or in the surrounding area which are considered to be relevant for the ExA during further unaccompanied site inspections (USI) <p>Note: The ExA has already undertaken USIs, details of which can be found on our website, here: http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/document/3528248.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representations relating to locations to view at the site or in the surrounding area which are considered to be relevant for the ExA during an accompanied site inspection (ASI) to better understand representations made or to see land and interests where there is no opportunity to gain public access • Notification from statutory parties, or a local authority without direct responsibility in the proposed development area, of a wish to be considered an interested party • Comments on any further information requested by the ExA and received to Deadline 1 • Any other information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Exam Rules 	
7.	<p>Issue by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification of the date, time and place for further issue specific hearings, an open floor hearing (if required) and a compulsory acquisition hearing (if required) 	Monday 18 April 2016
8.	<p>Deadline 3</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on WRs 	12 noon Wednesday 27 April

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses to comments on RRs • Comments on LIRs • Comments on responses to ExA's first written questions • Comments on the applicant's revised draft DCO • Comments on any further information requested by the ExA and received to Deadline 2 • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Exam Rules 	2016
9.	Time reserved for open floor hearing (if required)	Monday 16 May (Evening)
10.	Time reserved for issue specific hearing(s)	Tuesday 17 May 2016
11.	Time reserved for issue specific hearing(s)	Wednesday 18 May 2016 (Morning)
12.	Time reserved for compulsory acquisition hearing (if required)	Wednesday 18 May 2016 (Afternoon)
13.	Time reserved for accompanied site inspection (if required)	Thursday 19 May 2016
14.	<p>Deadline 4</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post hearing documents including any written summary of an oral case put at any hearing and any documents/amendments requested by the ExA • The applicant's revised draft DCO • Comments on any further information requested by the ExA and received to Deadline 3 • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Exam Rules 	<p>12 noon</p> <p>Thursday 26 May 2016</p>
15.	<p>Issue by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ExA's second written questions (if required) • Notification of the date, time and place for an issue specific hearing (if required) and a compulsory acquisition hearing (if required) 	Tuesday 7 June 2016
16.	<p>Deadline 5</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses to the ExA's second written questions 	<p>12 noon</p> <p>Friday 17 June 2016</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on the applicant's revised draft DCO • Comments on any further information requested by the ExA and received to Deadline 4 • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Exam Rules 	
17.	<p>Deadline 6*</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The applicant's final draft DCO <p>* Note: This deadline will not be required if the hearings at items 18 or 19 are held</p>	<p>12 noon Friday 24 June 2016</p>
18.	Time reserved for issue specific hearing (if required)	Wednesday 6 July 2016
19.	Time reserved for compulsory acquisition hearing (if required)	Thursday 7 July 2016
20.	<p>Deadline 7*</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-hearing documents including any written summary of an oral case put at any Hearing and any documents/amendments requested by the ExA • The applicant's final draft DCO <p>* Note: If hearings at items 18 and 19 are not held then this deadline will not be required</p>	<p>12 noon Thursday 14 July 2016</p>
21.	<p>Publication by ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ExA's draft DCO (if required to facilitate examination) • Report on Implications for European Sites (RIES) <p>* Note: If the hearings at items 18 and 19 are not held then the publication date will be</p> <p><i>A banner on the Glyn Rhonwy project pages of our website will be updated on this day to confirm the documents are published.</i></p>	<p>Friday 22 July 2016*</p> <p>Tuesday 5 July 2016</p>
22.	<p>Deadline 8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on the ExA's draft DCO • Comments on RIES for European Sites (RIES) • Comments on any further information requested by the ExA and received to Deadline 7 • Any other information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Exam Rules <p>* Note: if the hearings at items 18 and 19 are not held then</p>	<p>12 noon Wednesday 3 August 2016*</p>

	the deadline date will be	12 noon Tuesday 19 July 2016
23.	<p>Deadline 9</p> <p>Deadline for receipt of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses to comments on the ExA's draft DCO • Responses to comments on Implications for European Sites (RIES) • Comments on responses to ExA's second written questions • Comments on any further information requested by the ExA and received to Deadline 8 • Any other information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Exam Rules <p>* Note: if the hearings at items 17 and 18 are not held the deadline date will be</p>	<p>12 noon Wednesday 10 August 2016*</p> <p>12 noon Tuesday 26 July 2016</p>
24.	The ExA is under a duty to complete the examination of the application by the end of the period of 6 months beginning with the day after the close of the Preliminary Meeting	Thursday 8 September 2016

Examining Authority's first round of written questions

The first round of written questions has been issued simultaneously with this letter but is not annexed to it. The questions can be found on our website, here:

<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/document/3772905>

If you require a hard copy of the first round of questions, please contact a member of the case team who will post a copy to you immediately.