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**To:** [Brechfa Connection](#); [Katherine King](#); [Nicholas Coombes](#)  
**Cc:** [Andrew Hubbold \(ahubbold@westernpower.co.uk\)](#); [Kenyon, David \(david.kenyon@amecfw.com\)](#); [John Webster](#); [Greg McQuade](#); [Griffith, Geraint V. \(ggriffith@westernpower.co.uk\)](#); [PBlack@rsk.co.uk](#)  
**Subject:** 151109 EN020016 WPD - Notification of proposed minor variation to scheme  
**Date:** 09 November 2015 16:49:47  
**Attachments:** [L to PINS re Brechfa post app change.PDF](#)

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Dear Katherine/Nicholas

Please see attached a letter re. early notification of a proposed minor variation to the scheme as a result of very recent consultation and comments from Natural Resources Wales and Carmarthenshire County Council. Please contact us if you require any further information.

Yours Faithfully

**Neil Bromwich**

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Our reference NPB/0988452/O27003054.1/NPB

Your reference EN020016

**9 November 2015**

Dear Ms. King

**Brechfa Forest Connection – Application Reference EN0220016  
Western Power Distribution (South Wales) Plc (WPD)  
Proposal for alternative southern extension to underground section as a scheme variation**

WPD has made an application for the installation of a 132kV electric line of 28.6 kilometres (approximately 25.3km above ground and 3.3km below ground) connecting the consented Brechfa Forest West Wind Farm to an existing overhead line near Llandyfaelog.

The application was accepted for examination on 24th June 2015. The examination began on 7th October 2015.

The Application includes a section of underground line as mitigation to the impact of the project on the Towy Valley Special Landscape Area and the Towy Valley Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest. The application as accepted for examination was subject to extensive consultation between WPD, Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC) and Natural Resources for Wales (NRW). Ongoing discussions and negotiation on the Statement of Common Ground with CCC, NRW and their jointly appointed consultant has taken place. On 22 October by e-mail NRW requested that there be a small alteration to the positioning of a terminal pole arrangement and consequentially a short extension of the undergrounding southward. No request for this detailed alteration had been made before this date. This position has also now been advocated by CCC.

The change being proposed by CCC/NRW affects a short section of approximately 270 metres of overhead line which would be placed underground and remove the need for pole numbers 85 & 86 and change of pole 84 to a terminal pole (Works Plan Section A [APP-007] Plan 7 of 7). WPD considers that should such an amendment be made it would not be a material change taking into consideration PINS Advice Note 16 and the Wheatcroft principle. WPD is currently considering CCC/NRW's latest position in terms of its assessment of the effect on the landscape and is therefore reassessing conclusions as to whether the affected line would give rise to a serious concern to warrant placing this additional short section of line underground.

WPD's initial assessment of CCC/NRW's latest position is that the additional section of undergrounding is not justified. However, WPD appreciates that in this very specific location the issue is one of judgement. WPD considers therefore that the application should include CCC/NRW's preferred position to underground a further 270 metres of line in the alternative to the current proposed development.

WPD therefore intends to submit an application to provide the short southern extension to the undergrounding of approximately 270 metres as an alternative to the existing route. A similar addition of an alternative was recently considered and accepted in the Rhyl/North Wales NSIP. The alternative offered here is much more minor.

Having considered the steps necessary to submit this application, WPD is currently preparing an application for submission which will allow the Examiner to consider the proposed scheme, as WPD's preference, against the Council's requested alternative.

The purpose of this letter is to give the Examiner the earliest possible notice of the proposed alternative. Following a formal written submission we understand that the Examiner will consider whether the alternative can be accepted for examination and publish any directions.

Yours Faithfully



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