



Your ref: EN020016  
Our ref: BFC – AFP035

28<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Ms. Katherine King  
The Planning Inspectorate  
3/18 Eagle Wing  
2 The Square  
BRISTOL  
BS1 6PN

Dear Katherine

***BRECHFA FOREST CONNECTION***

Further to the Inspector's letter of 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016, we would like to submit comments for deadline 4 as below :-

- Despite being given an undertaking that the existing 11kva overhead cables would be rerouted underground, there has been no further engagement or information received from Western Power or their agents regarding this issue. We need confirmation that this undergrounding will be carried out as previously agreed and furthermore require clarification of the proposed route and the timeline of when the work will commence.
- We have not been consulted nor received any explanation from Western Power or their agents why Pole 153 has been changed from a single pole to an "H" pole and the addition of an extra "H" pole (154) in our other field. We were informed by Mr. Tony Jackson BA from LSTC during his site visit on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014 that we would only have one single pole on our land approximately 120 metres from our dwelling and that it would be sited in the dip of the land with only the top of the pole visible. It is not unreasonable to expect WPD to explain why they have changed the number and type of poles on our land and to clarify the exact positions of the proposed poles.
- We are still waiting for a visit from a Hydrologist to identify the exact source of our existing spring. The proposed access route to the easement strip between 'H' pole 153 and 'H' pole 154 runs over the localised area of the spring that provides drinking water for our animals whilst grazing the lower fields. This spring is also the emergency water supply to our holding should our existing gravity supply run low or encounter any problems. The proposed access route uses a gate between two of our fields which is only suitable for the movement of stock and is not suitable to be used by construction plant, equipment or vehicles.

- We are also awaiting wildlife surveys to be carried out to determine the possibility of the presence of great crested newts, slow worms, door mice, bat surveys, including static detectors and bat transects surveys and surveys for any other species of wildlife. This clearly contradicts WPD's environmental obligations.
  - We are gravely concerned about the timing of the proposed construction works as one of our fields is reclaimed ancient peat bog and is only suitable to withstand heavy machinery during the very dry summer months. If construction works are undertaken without due consideration of the ground conditions, the damage to the field will be extensive and will take years to recover leaving it unsuitable for grazing and haymaking.
- We have sought professional advice regarding the modified Heads of Terms (HoT's) and on his guidance we will not sign the HoT's until paragraph 8 has been amended to read :-
 

*"The Landowner (and any tenant who is party to the modified HoT Agreement) will agree not to grow trees or plant or alter the Easement Area but the Early Access Agreement will not prevent the Landowner (or tenant) creating new interests affecting the Landowners retained property".*
- Paragraph 11b should be amended to read:-
  - *"The right for WPD (and those authorised by it) to take access over the designated Easement Strip and the temporary access route for construction, installation, commissioning, testing, inspecting, repairing, maintenance, replacement, renewal, decommissioning, removal and use of the electric line, **and not to take access or trespass over any other of the Landowner's retained property,**  
The landowner will be given a minimum of 7 days notice for access before any routine work is carried out"*
- Paragraph 11c should be deleted altogether.

We would once again reiterate our concerns regarding the lack of transparency and engagement by WPD and their agents. The absence of communication and consultation with the landowners is at best indifference and at worst contempt. It is not unreasonable to expect to be an equal participant in the consultation process and we seek the assistance of the Planning Inspectorate to ensure that openness and information sharing by WPD is the modus operandi moving forward.

Yours sincerely

Avril and Bryan Davies