

North Shropshire Reinforcement Project Team
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Date: 26 June 2019
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SENT BY EMAIL TO – NorthShropshireReinforcement@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dear Mr Hudson

The Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 - Rules 17 and 13

Application by SP Manweb for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Reinforcement to the North Shropshire Electricity Distribution Network

Response to Request for Further Information and Notification of Hearings dated 12 June 2019

I am writing on behalf of Network Rail Infrastructure Limited ("Network Rail") in response to your letter of 12th June 2019 and in particular your request for Network Rail's views on the proposal to close the Examination earlier than the published timetable, shortly after Deadline 7 on 31st July 2019.

As the statutory undertaker responsible for maintaining and operating the national rail network, Network Rail detailed in its section 56 Representation objections to certain works and land acquisition powers proposed for this DCO scheme which, if consented without satisfactory protections for Network Rail, would adversely affect Network Rail's compliance with its statutory and regulatory obligations to operate a safe, efficient and economical national rail network.

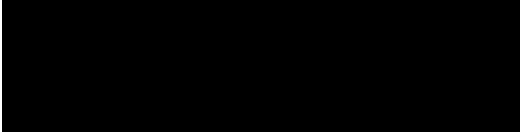
Network Rail also detailed in its section 56 Representation the protections Network Rail require in order to be in a position to withdraw its objection. These protections are the inclusion of full and proper protective provisions for Network Rail in the draft Order together with the settlement of a framework agreement, the required asset protection agreement and necessary property agreement so to properly and fully protect Network Rail's statutory undertaking. Network Rail reiterated these requirements in the Statement of Common Ground with SP Manweb dated 31st May 2019 which was submitted for the Deadline 4 submission. As stated in this Statement of Common Ground the protections required by Network Rail had yet to be agreed by SP Manweb. These protections remain to be agreed to Network Rail's satisfaction as of the date of this letter.

Whilst Network Rail acknowledge your proposal to close the Examination earlier than the published timetable of 20th September 2019, Network Rail must express its concern that an earlier closure of the Examination will not provide sufficient time for the proper protections required by Network Rail, and in particular the inclusion of full and proper protective provisions for Network Rail in the Order, to be agreed to Network Rail's satisfaction. Accordingly, in the absence of such agreed protections Network Rail cannot currently agree to the earlier closure

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of the examination with the risks that such a proposal may pose to Network Rail's operation of the national rail network.

■ Yours sincerely



James O'Connor
Partner for
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