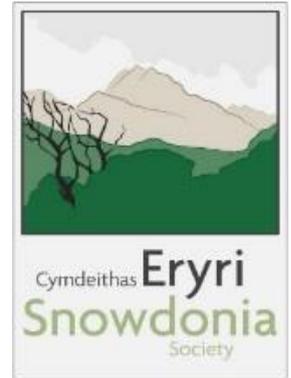


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10th March 2015

Glyn Rhonwy Pumped Storage Consultation Response from Cymdeithas Eryri the Snowdonia Society

I write on behalf of Cymdeithas Eryri the Snowdonia Society to give our response to the consultation on the Snowdonia Pumped Hydro (SPH) proposed pumped storage hydro scheme at Glyn Rhonwy. The Snowdonia Society is a member-based charity which since 1967 has worked to protect, enhance and celebrate Snowdonia and its National Park.

The following points deal with the connection of the proposed new development to the electricity distribution network and are of specific concern to us. The landscape of northern Snowdonia, views of the Glyderau and the Snowdon massif from the north, and the position of Llanberis and Llyn Padarn at the gateway to Snowdonia National Park – these are all features of immense value at local, regional, national, and international levels.

We would appreciate a clear response to the following points.

Para 4.13.8 of the Draft Environmental Statement Vol 1 Non-Technical Summary states:

“As the electrical connection will be underground, it is unlikely that there will be any significant adverse effects on the surrounding landscape.”

However, on page 5 of the Consultation Overview Report it is stated that:

“The development will be connected to the electricity distribution network via a new electrical connection. This will be exported from an onsite substation to an offsite substation near Pentir. The consenting of the electrical connection is the responsibility of the District Network Operator, SP Manweb. SPH expects the connection to be provided underground.”

...and in correspondence (Sarah Nixon, Project Developer, Snowdonia Pumped Hydro, by email dated 19th February 2015) that:

“With respect to the grid connection, unfortunately I am unable to confirm how the power station will be connected to the electricity grid system. The grid connection does not form part of our planning application. In Wales the grid connection is considered to be 'Associated Development' under the Planning Act 2008 and the responsibility of designing and consenting the connection lies with the District Network Operator (SP Manweb). Snowdonia Pumped Hydro expects this connection to be provided underground and this is the current offer being discussed with SP Manweb.”

Clearly a great deal of work has gone into developing and designing the proposal for the Glyn Rhonwy site, and yet this fundamental matter remains entirely opaque. This is a cause of grave concern.

We would therefore appreciate responses to the following points:

- i.* Given the conflicting statements in your consultation documents and correspondence, can you state **whether SPH has made any assessment of the likely landscape impacts of grid connection options other than undergrounding?**
- ii.* If the answer to point *i.* is ‘Yes’, will those impact assessments be made available to the local community, and if so when?
- iii.* If the answer to point *i.* is ‘No’, can you explain why not?
- iv.* Does SPH consider it acceptable (as opposed to procedural) to wash its hands of the question of how the grid connection is to be made? We ask this in the light of the fact that this aspect of the development will have by far the greatest impact on the landscape and on the world-famous iconic views into the National Park and towards Snowdon itself?
- v.* Will SPH make available to the local community evidence which demonstrates that an underground connection is **the** only offer which has been discussed with SP Manweb?
- vi.* Will SPH provide to the local community a non-technical explanation of how the decision to progress a specific connection method will be made, including how cost considerations will influence the decision?
- vii.* Will SPH undertake to inform the local community immediately and fully if at any stage the discussion with SP Manweb includes any option other than undergrounding of the connection?
- viii.* If, after exhausting other options, an overground connection with new pylons becomes the most likely option, will SPH undertake to abandon its application for a Development Consent Order, in the interest of protecting some of the most important landscapes and views which Wales possesses and upon which much of the local economy depends?

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Harold', written in a cursive style.

John Harold

Director
Cymdeithas Eryri the Snowdonia Society