

SPEN question set



Lauderdale Community Council acts on behalf of the community of Lauderdale. Throughout the ongoing transition to renewable energy, our aim is to keep the community fully informed of proposed developments, and to raise awareness of potential local impacts during construction, operation and decommissioning. We encourage the local community to share their views with us and with developers, and to provide input to the planning process.

This list of questions has been compiled by the Lauderdale Community Council Energy Subgroup (LCC ESG), based on our own research and on questions submitted by members of the community. They are grouped by subject and are in no particular order of priority.

The Gala North site

- 1) What is the total area of the proposed site? What area of the proposed site will be taken up by the currently proposed substation, and what area is earmarked for future expansion? How large might the substation get? Are future expansions covered in this planning proposal, or would they require further planning applications?
- 2) What led SPEN to choose Lauderdale for the siting of a substation?
- 3) If the cross-border connection were not proposed to pass through this area, would you still choose to site a substation in Lauderdale?
- 4) Are you in contact with developers who are proposing generation developments in and around the Lauderdale area?
- 5) What sort of illumination will be used at the substation? Will it be lit at all times?

Consultation process and extent

- 6) What modifications have you made since the last set of community consultations on the Gala North substation?
- 7) Could you provide a map or graphic showing all overhead lines that you are currently aware of that will connect to the substation. We expect that this would include at least the following in addition to the ZA diversion.
 - a) Dun Law connection (132kV)
 - b) Cross Border connection (400kV)
 - c) Harburn to Gala North (400kV)

The proposed haul route scoping

- 8) What responsibility do you have to help maintain safe access to walking/cycling routes in the area during construction?
- 9) When we were visited by Lightsource BP regarding the Sheepfold BESS proposal, they indicated to the Community Council that their haul route would be from the A7 rather than the A68. Did you consider a similar route and if so why did you decide on access from the A68?
- 10) Your map showing the scoping area indicates that you intend to turn off the A68 onto what is known locally as the 'Blainslie Road', and join the 'Langshaw Road'. Can you comment on this based on the local knowledge of these roads listed below:
 - a) There have been accidents and near misses involving traffic heading south on the A68 turning right into the Blainslie road.
 - b) The Blainslie Road and 'Blainslie Path' (running from Lauder parallel to the A68) form part of local cycling and walking routes, promoting safe routes for active travel between towns in the area. The proposed haul route scoping area appears to intersect this route.
 - c) There is a well used walking route and nature corridor running along the side of the Langshaw Road which your haul route scoping area appears to intersect.
 - d) The Langshaw road is a well used commuting route, although it is already regarded as a fast and dangerous road. How would you manage traffic turning onto and off this road?
- 11) It appears from your scoping map that you are planning to build a new road. Will this be temporary? If so, for how long would you expect it to be in use? Will it be open to the public? If not, how would you prevent the public from using it?
- 12) How much construction traffic will pass through Lauder?
- 13) Do you have estimates of the volume of traffic that will be involved in the construction? Can you give this in terms of lorries per day?
- 14) Have you already secured the land on which you plan to build any additional road?

Construction phase

- 15) During construction, how many people will work on the site and where will they stay? Will their commute to work have a significant impact on traffic volumes on local roads?
- 16) How many jobs will the development create during both construction and operation phases?

Community benefits

- 17) In the information leaflet distributed to the community you state that "The Gala North substation project will attract community benefit funding". Could you explain what that means?
- 18) Would the ZA Overhead Line diversion generate community benefit for Lauderdale? If yes, can you state the amount?

- 19) Is community benefit a government requirement of SPEN or is it voluntary? Is there a particular fund from which any community benefit would come? (We note that Birgham Village hall has received funding from your Transmission Net Zero Fund).

Biodiversity and natural environment

- 20) Has a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) been carried out (or will it be carried out) given proximity to SSSI/SAC site at nearby Threepwood Moss?
- 21) Will any of the EIA reports be available to the public prior to any planning submission?
- 22) Will construction of the substation affect the water table and potentially affect Threepwood Moss?
- 23) What will be the impact of construction on the Lauder Burn, which feeds eventually into the Tweed?
- 24) In considering sensitive environmental sites bordering the proposed development, have you allowed for the impact of likely or known future expansion?
- 25) What impacts on the local wildlife have you considered, and how do you intend to mitigate them?

More general questions

- 26) What steps has SP Energy Networks undertaken to increase transmission capacity with the current infrastructure? How much additional transmission capacity has that added?
- 27) To what extent do you see these plans fitting in with the NESO Strategic Spatial Energy Plan?