

SUBMISSION FROM HIGHLANDS BEFORE PYLONS

Highlands Before Pylons have submitted that the assumption within NPF2, which is that the reinforcements to the transmission system in Scotland can be considered independently of the decision on the proposed Beaully to Denny 400kV line, is incorrect. This view is supported by Scottish and Southern Energy's (SSE's) submission to the Energy, Economy and Tourism Committee Inquiry into *Determining and Delivering Scotland's Energy Future* ⁽¹⁾. To quote this reference:

“Rebuilding the weakest leg (Beaully-Denny) of the north of Scotland transmission ring allows the other elements of that system to be strengthened through relatively uncontentious re-conductoring and re-insulation work on existing tower routes, and substation extensions (i.e. no new overhead line routes).”

This demonstrates that the transmission industry view the new Beaully to Denny line as an essential component of the upgraded network.

It is also relevant that SSE point to the ease with which the east coast overhead lines could be reinforced. This supports Highlands Before Pylons' principal argument, that subsea cables running direct from the Scottish Islands to centres of demand in the south, in parallel with an upgraded east coast transmission line, form a viable alternative to SSE's plans as presently reflected in NPF2. We therefore repeat our call for such subsea cables, which are a well established technology, to be included within the options illustrated in NPF2.

Reference (1):

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/eet/inquiries/energyFuture/EnergySubmissions.htm>