

Schedule 9 Statement

SP TRANSMISSION LIMITED

**Statement on Preservation of Amenity
in accordance with Schedule 9
of the Electricity Act 1989**

Statement on Preservation of Amenity & Fisheries in Scotland in Accordance with Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989

1 Introduction

SP Transmission Limited (“SP Transmission”) has a duty under Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989 (“the Act”) to have regard to the preservation of amenity.

This requires the relevant licence holder, when formulating proposals relating to the construction or extension of electric lines or the carrying out of other works in connection with the transmission or supply of electricity, to take account of the effects the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside, on any flora, fauna, buildings or objects of historical interest and sites and structures of archaeological interest. It is also required to take reasonable actions to mitigate the effects of its proposals on amenity.

This Statement sets out how SP Transmission will carry out these duties in developing and maintaining its network.

2 Background

SP Transmission Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of Scottish Power UK plc and holds an electricity transmission licence for Central and Southern Scotland. Its transmission network includes around 4000 circuit kilometres, both overhead and underground, and is operated at voltages of 132 kV and above.

Its authorised area include sites of national and international nature conservation, and many protected historic and archaeological sites and buildings, as well as dense housing and some heavily industrialised areas, particularly bordering on the Firth of Forth and the River Clyde.

SP Transmission has a statutory duty to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical system of electricity transmission. It needs to take this and other statutory duties into account, including those relating to preservation of amenity, when developing and carrying out investment projects.

This statement deals only with those environmental obligations falling under Schedule 9 of the Act. SP Transmission has a number of other environmental requirements and has a range of policies and procedures to meet these that are not covered here. Additional information on the environmental performance of the businesses in the ScottishPower group is reported annually within its corporate environmental report.

3 Statutory Requirements

The Act says that a licence holder, when formulating 'relevant proposals':

“(a) shall have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geographical or physiographical features of special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest; and

(b) shall do what he reasonably can to mitigate any effect which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or any such flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects.” (Schedule 9, 1(1))

'Relevant proposals' mean any proposals:

“... (b) for the installation (whether above or below ground) of an electric line; or

(c) for the execution of any other works for or in connection with the transmission or supply of electricity.” (Schedule 9, 1(3))

In addition, in respect of Scotland, the Act prescribes that:

"... A licence holder... shall avoid, so far as is possible, causing injury to fisheries or to the stock of fish in any waters." (Schedule 9, 3(3))

SP Transmission's guidelines for meeting its Schedule 9 obligations are set out overleaf.

SP TRANSMISSION'S SCHEDULE 9 GUIDELINES

Where any of our operations or any proposed developments or projects comprise a "relevant proposal" we will observe the following guidelines:

1. Established Need

We will seek to construct new lines or substations only where the existing infrastructure cannot be upgraded to meet security of supply requirements, or where an increase in demand for electricity transportation capacity is foreseen which cannot be satisfied by other means or where new connections to customers are required.

2. Designated Areas for Amenity

We will pay due regard to the need to preserve and maintain amenity, particularly within the areas of the greatest landscape, wildlife or cultural amenity, such as National Parks, National Scenic Areas, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Scheduled Ancient Monuments and other national or international designated areas.

For new transmission infrastructure we will investigate the possibility of alternative routes or sites outwith the designated area. For existing networks and where there is a requirement for infrastructure inside the designated area we will seek to minimise the impact of its presence through the sensitive routing and siting of structures. In such cases we will consult with those groups most likely to be affected at an early stage.

3. Seek to Minimise the Impact of New Infrastructure

We will seek to minimise the effects of new transmission infrastructure at or near both designated sites and also other sites valued for their general amenity, such as areas of archaeological interest, battlefields, local nature reserves, playing fields and water bodies. We will take into account the significance of sites valued for their amenity through consultation with statutory bodies and local authorities.

4. Mitigate the Adverse Effects of Works

Where works are likely to have an adverse effect on amenity, we will carry out our activities in such a way as to reduce the impact of these activities to the practicable minimum.

Where planned works would have a high impact on amenity, we will consult with statutory bodies, local authorities and relevant landowners to help us identify, assess and carry out measures to mitigate the impact so far as is reasonably practicable.

5. Environmental Assessments

We will carry out environmental assessments in accordance with relevant legislation prior to developing proposals for new lines or plant.

6. Protection of Fisheries

In the preparation of plans and programmes we will seek to avoid, so far as is possible, causing injury to fisheries or to the stock of fish in any waters within our licensed area.

7. Training and Awareness

We will promote environmental awareness amongst staff through appropriate training and dissemination of information. We will also make contractors aware of the relevant parts of this statement, and take steps to audit their compliance with it

8. Review of the Schedule 9 statement

We intend to review our Schedule 9 statement at least every 5 years.