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Kersti Berge

OFGEM

9 Millbank

London, SW1P 3GE

E: kersti.berge@ofgem.gov.uk

Please respond to:

June Love

DSG Secretariat

Dounreay.com

Traill House

7 Odrig Street

Thurso, Caithness, KW14 7BJ

Tel: 01847 890886

Fax: 01847 893459

Email: info@dounreaystakeholdergroup.org

Dear Ms Berge

**SCOTTISH HYDRO ELECTRIC PROPOSED TRANSMISSION PROJECT BETWEEN CAITHNESS AND MORAY:
CONSULTATION RESPONSE.**

The Dounreay Stakeholder Group (DSG) is represented by over 20 organisations and therefore this response is one that is generally agreed by most organisations. However, there are some organisations, who may not agree entirely with this submission and therefore these organisations have been encouraged to provide their own response.

DSG believes that the need for the cable (HVDC cable from a converter station by Spittal, Caithness to Blackhillock, Moray via a direct subject cable across the Moray Firth is required and as a result is supportive of this.

The group would not be supportive of the alternative proposed route involving a land based overhead option for Caithness to Moray for the following reasons:

- Given the rural nature of our countryside and to the area's identity and economy land routing would be the least favoured option.
- Developing the option of underground/subsea route would have a significant impact on landscape and visual impact.
- Subsea cables would alleviate the pressures which are already in existence with the continued expansion of substations.

While recognising the role of OFGEM to ensure the best possible service for consumers, DSG believes that the subsea option is the better option and supports the Scottish Hydro proposal.

Yours sincerely

Sent electronically without signature

David Flear
DSG Chairman