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By email to econsents_admin@gov.scot

Stephen McFadden
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Energy Consents Unit
Directorate for Energy and Climate Change
Scottish Government

14 January 2019

Dear Sir

**THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND)
REGULATIONS 2017
ELECTRICITY ACT 1989 : APPLICATION FOR SECTION 36 CONSENT FOR THE PROPOSED
RED JOHN PUMPED STORAGE SCHEME IN THE PLANNING AUTHORITY AREA OF THE
HIGHLAND COUNCIL
ECU reference: ECU00000728**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Red John pumped storage hydropower scheme.

There are a couple of points on which we wish to comment and bring to your attention, which may require further investigation for Health and Safety concerns.

Mountaineering Scotland is a membership organisation with over 13,000 members and is the only recognised representative organisation for hill walkers, climbers, mountaineers and ski-tourers who live in Scotland or who enjoy Scotland's mountains, and acts to represent, support and promote Scottish mountaineering. Mountaineering Scotland also acts on behalf of the 80,000 members of the British Mountaineering Council (BMC) on matters related to landscape and access in Scotland, and provides training and information to mountain users to promote safety, self-reliance and the enjoyment of our mountain environment.

Representative viewpoints

A selection of representative viewpoints (Fig. 5.2) was assessed for theoretical visibility. One aspect of the use of Viewpoint 6 is that it is also a popular sport climbing crag, going by the name of The Camel. In addition there is a popular traditional climbing crag called Duntelchaig at grid reference NH 641314, between Viewpoints 4 and 5.

The EIA reports suggests a moderate adverse effect on visual amenity of Viewpoint 6 during construction phase and minor adverse during operational life. The impact on the climbing crag at Duntelchaig has not been assessed.

The focus of climbing is in the rock in front, unlike a Munro or Corbett where the view through the landscape is an important aspect. The development may obvious from the top of the climb and we would like to see an assessment of this sensitivity for climbers.

A further point to note is that climbers have not been included in the assessment of noise and vibration. A sudden explosion has the potential to alarm climbers if not expected, and may be in the middle of a manoeuvre on the rock face with potentially fatal consequences. We request that

the applicant investigates the implications of this and provides a means to mitigate any potential dangers on crag climbers impacts from noise and vibration from blasting.

I hope that you find these comments useful and am happy to provide more detail if requested.

Yours sincerely

REDACTED

Davie Black
Access & Conservation Officer
Mountaineering Scotland