Christopher Breslin
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By email only to: sea.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Sir

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005

Thank you for your Screening Report consultation which SEPA received via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway on 27 July 2012.

In accordance with Section 9(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act, 2005, we have considered your screening report using the criteria set out in Schedule 2 for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment. Having reviewed the Screening Report, we consider that in respect of our main areas of interest (air, water, soil, human health, material assets (of which we have a specific interest in waste) and climatic factors) the strategy is unlikely to have significant environmental effects. Although we are of the view that significant environmental effects are not likely, it is for Scottish Canals as Responsible Authority to make a formal determination taking into account the consultation responses received.

If it is formally determined that SEA is required, you will be aware that the next stage requires the Responsible Authority to consult the Consultation Authorities on the proposed scope and level of detail to be included within the Environmental Report. This can be undertaken through preparation of a concise Scoping Report. We would encourage you to use the scoping process to focus the assessment on those SEA issues upon which there are likely to be significant environmental effects, to outline the baseline information you consider as most relevant and explain your proposed methodology of assessment. We are committed to providing early and focused advice and supporting continuous engagement and would therefore welcome the opportunity to meet with you and discuss these issues prior to the formal consultation. Further information about this stage and what to include in scoping consultations can be found in Chapter 5 of the Scottish SEA Tool Kit available from www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/09/13104943/45.

Should you wish to discuss this screening consultation, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01355 574 200 or via our SEA Gateway at sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk

Yours faithfully

Lorna Maclean
Principal Policy Officer (SEA)

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