

From: [Cherry Bartlett](#)
To: [Glyn Rhonwy Pumped Storage Scheme](#)
Subject: Glyn Rhonwy application for extension
Date: 17 October 2023 14:39:25

I wish to object strongly to the application by Snowdonia Pumped Hydro (SPH) to extend the deadline for commencement for their pumped hydro project until 29 March 2026.

SPH have already had 9 years to start this project and have hidden behind excuses once already, to obtain one deadline extension. They used Covid last time and have used it again together with cost pressures as a result of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Looking at their justification for the extension I would submit that they do not stand up to scrutiny:

- Cost pressures. There is nothing to indicate that costs of raw materials will improve in the short term. It is very unlikely that inflation will slow to zero in the near future, so inflationary pressure will continue possibly just a bit more slowly than recently. They also cite labour costs and the shortage of skilled labour. SPH were never going to be able to recruit the skilled labour they need in North Wales and proposed to bring labour in. These costs will also continue to rise and there is absolutely no benefit to this area of North Wales for their project.

- Government support. SPH indicate that the project would require investment from the Government's Long Duration Energy Storage Support System (LDESS) which they believe will be implemented in 2024. They quote two other companies, Drax and SSE, that are awaiting similar support. The Drax scheme, for example, would provide at least 5 times the capacity of the Glyn Rhonwy scheme and is based in Cruachan where Drax already has infrastructure for connecting to the national grid. The SSE schemes also provide many, many times more capacity. These schemes are much more likely to attract investment than the SPH scheme. Also, the government has pulled back on reliance on renewable energy which the SPH scheme is designed to support, so may not continue with LDESS. There is also an election due in 2024 which could change the scene altogether.

- Connection to the grid. As mentioned above other schemes already have infrastructure to build on and SPH would need to implement a grid link. It is clear that many projects that have already been completed and could feed the grid are waiting anything up to 15 years to connect to the National Grid. This adds to the argument that projects that already have infrastructure in place will be more attractive for investment.

- Local impacts. The SPH proposal states that "the potential impacts on local businesses and residents will not be altered by the proposed NMA". That may be true, but does not acknowledge that the impact on the local people and

communities was already destructive and disastrous and there was no local support for the scheme.

- Environmental Appraisal. SPH conclude that their updated Environmental Appraisal "demonstrates that the proposed change would result in no new or different likely significant effects". This appraisal pays lip service to the World Heritage Site (WHS) status awarded to Llyn Padarn because, although Glyn Rhonwy is not within the WHS, it is directly across Llyn Padarn and the noise, increase in heavy vehicles etc are most certainly going to impact on the WHS. It is also likely that the connection to the grid would also need to be built possibly within or on the edge of the WHS.

Please do not grant this extension to SPH. The local community has had the threat of it hanging over us for nine years and that is long enough. SPH are not based in North Wales, they have no staff based in the area and the project would not benefit the area in any way. Their intention all along has been to sell on the permission and, if granted an extension which they can't sell within the two years, will be back again with another extension request and more excuses and we will have suffered another two years of uncertainty.

Cherry Bartlett