

Our Ref: SCO/2010/0005

This Matter is being dealt with by: Steve Long

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18 November 2010

Mr N Foxall
West Coast Energy Ltd
Mynydd Awel
Mold Business Park
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Mold
Flintshire CH7 1XN

Dear Mr Foxall

Scoping opinion for three wind turbines - Land at Carwath Farm, Rosley

I refer to your previous meeting and correspondence regarding the above.

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required in connection with the scheme of development you have outlined. The following issues should be addressed within the EIA:

Full description of the development, including:

- Description of the physical characteristics of the whole development and land use requirements for construction and operation, including turbines, materials, foundations, access tracks, hardstandings, monitoring mast and associated buildings.

- A Traffic Assessment for the construction stage on effects to highways including:

Numbers and types of vehicles (HGV and non HGV) for both pre and post construction; current traffic flows and the effect of traffic on these; proposed haulage routes for construction traffic; proposed route for abnormal vehicles; construction period; accident history in the vicinity of the site; haul route for all vehicles; access details to the site from the public highway and details of access routes within the site, including on-site turning facilities, visibility splays and drainage details; details of any proposed permanent and/or temporary highway works to increase in traffic/abnormal loads; traffic management plan; and any effects on public rights of way.

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- Description of construction methods and timetabling.
- An outline of the main alternatives considered by the applicant and the reasons for selecting this particular site. This should refer to the alternative layouts and turbine sizes considered so as to achieve best fit on site.
- Description of the aspects of the environment likely to be affected by the development, namely population, fauna, flora, water, material assets (including the archaeological heritage), landscape, hydrology (including Flood Risk Assessment) and the management of surface water run-off, Electro Magnetic Interference (EMI) and Air Safeguarding, traffic and vehicular access, public access and safety, and interrelationships between these factors. These descriptions would be included in the individual assessments detailed in the following.
- Description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment (direct and indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative) resulting from the existence of the development and the use of natural resources. In this respect, the following issues will be addressed:
 - Landscape and Visual Assessment (LVA): a full LVA should be commissioned for a study area of 30km taking into consideration landscape character, landscape designations, main visual receptors, and an assessment of the effects to landscape character and visuals. In addition, the work should consider the cumulative impact the proposal will have when account is taken of existing and planned schemes. Particular regard should be had to the detailed guidance within the County Council's 'Cumbria Wind Energy, Supplementary Planning Document'.
 - Ecology: Phase 1 Habitat Survey, mammal (including bats), amphibian, invertebrate and ornithology (breeding birds (including barn owls), winter migrants and flightlines) surveys will be commissioned, and an assessment of potential impacts presented. Account shall be taken of potential impacts on nearby wildlife sites.
 - Archaeology: a desk top study, site walkover and field evaluation would be commissioned, and an assessment of potential impacts will be conducted and effects to Hadrians Wall World Heritage Site will be undertaken.

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- Noise: a noise impact assessment will be undertaken. This assessment will have regard to the DTI Noise Working Group Guidelines ETSU-R-97. Regard also should be had to the article 'Prediction and Assessment of Wind Turbine Noise – A statement from the independent consultants who sat on the DTI/BERR Noise Working Group', published in the Institute of Acoustics Bulletin, Volume 34, No. 2, March/April 2009.
- Economic and environmental benefits: the expected benefits to the local and regional communities and economy, and the local and global environmental benefits through offsetting the production of greenhouse gases and pollutants will be assessed and presented.
- Traffic and Vehicle Access: an assessment of existing traffic use at the site and the potential impacts of construction and operational traffic will be commissioned.
- Public Access and Safety: an assessment of risks to public access and safety will be undertaken in respect of land use, public rights of way, shadow flicker, driver distraction and potential environmental health effects through pollution to land and water.
- Electro-magnetic interference and Air Safeguarding: potential effects to EMI transmissions, air safeguarding and MOD tactical training areas will be assessed including consultation with Carlisle Airport, the Coastguard and Trinity Lighthouse. Particular regard should be had to the cumulative impact on NATS interests.
- Experience suggests that value would come from the submission of an Integrated Environmental Mitigation Strategy. This would, in addition to considering landscape and visual aspects, provide a mitigation site plan, management plan, on site environmental monitoring and method statements.
- Planning Appraisal: an analysis of the conformity of the proposal with national policy planning, relevant regional planning, and Structure and Local Plan guidance.
- Description of the recommended avoidance and mitigation measures to reduce potential negative impacts to acceptable levels, and to maximize the potential benefits of the scheme.

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The finalised Environmental Statement for the planning submission will comprise three volumes:

- A **Non Technical Summary** will summarise information provided in the main report and will be presented, alongside relevant plans and maps, in a manner accessible to all members of the affected community.
- A **Written Statement** that will include all the information and assessments presented in the bullet points above, expected to be in the following format:
 - Preface
 - Introduction
 - Site Selection and Justification
 - Construction, Operation and Decommissioning of the wind farm, including traffic assessment
 - Landscape and Visual Assessment
 - Ecological Assessment
 - Archaeological Assessment
 - EMI and Air Safeguarding Assessment
 - Public Access and Safety Assessment
 - Proposed Impact Avoidance and Mitigation measures in respect of negative environmental effects
 - Conclusion
- A **Figures** document, which will include detailed design schematics, Zone of Visual Influence, Photomontages, Ecological and Archaeological mapping.

It would be appropriate to discuss nearer the date for submission the number of copies of the Environmental Statement that might be required and the format for submission.

I enclose copies of representations received whilst considering your request.

Yours sincerely

Principal Planning Officer

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