GORTFINBAR WIND FARM PROPOSAL, SIXMILECROSS, COUNTY TYRONE

Introduction

DW Consultancy Ltd are proposing to develop a 5 turbine wind farm at Gortfinbar townland in Co Tyrone. The electricity generated will supply approximately 8,360 homes every year. This renewable wind energy will be fed into the national electricity grid. Canavan Associates Ltd. are preparing the Planning Application and coordinating the Environmental Statement for this proposal.

The Proposed Location

The proposed site lies approximately 5 km south of Carrickmore, 6 kilometres south east of Sixmilecross and 8 kilometres south west of Pomeroy in County Tyrone, at Gortfinbar townland near Altmore Forest . The map on the back of this page shows the approximate site location.

The Proposed Project

The proposed development will be composed of 5 wind turbines, access tracks and an electrical control building. The turbines will have three blades and be coloured matt grey. They will reach a maximum overall base to blade tip height of 125m.

Site Selection Process

The site at Gortfinbar has been chosen because of the wind resources available in this upland location and the capacity of the electrical power grid to accommodate the power generated. The selected site has no designations that specify it as a protected area.

Environmental Assessment

The proposed development is undergoing a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) according to the Northern Ireland EIA legislation to determine, and to propose mitigation measures for, any possible impacts resulting from this development. This assessment will be compiled in the Environmental Statement and submitted with the planning application. The Environmental Statement will contain site specific information on ecology, birds, archaeology, noise, hydrology, geotechnical issues, and visual and landscape assessment, among other topics.

Information Timetable

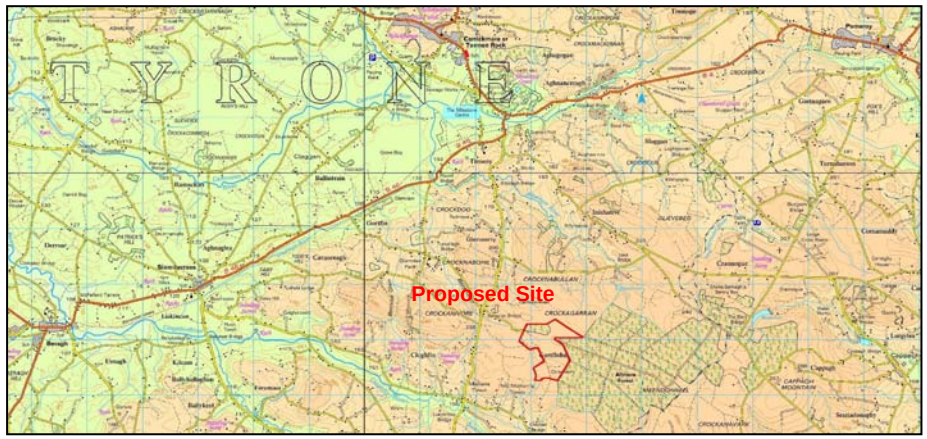
Research has been ongoing in relation to the preparation of the Environmental Statement and Planning Application. Consultations with the Planning Service, government bodies, agencies, community groups and nearby neighbours have occurred. The planning application and Environmental Statement for this development is expected to be submitted to the Planning Service in early 2006.

A Public Information Day will be held to answer questions and provide additional information about the proposed wind farm. This event will present an opportunity for members of the public and all local residents to see detailed plans of the proposed development before it is submitted.In order to keep the community informed advertisements and press releases will be printed in the local papers when the planning application and environmental statement have been received by the Planning Service. These notices will include details of where the environmental statement for the wind farm will be available for viewing. Those with questions are asked to contact Canavan Associates at the details listed here.

Benefits

- This 5 turbine proposal will offer significant positive benefits to local and national air quality by reducing the production of 'Greenhouse gases.'
- The proposed wind farm will save at least 33,900 tonnes of Carbon dioxide,118 tonnes of Nitrous oxide and 394 tonnes of Sulfur Dioxide every year by producing energy by renewable means rather than by burning fossil fuels.
- The proposed wind farm will avoid the need to landfill 2450 tonnes of slag and ash each year.
- The locally produced electricity will remove the need to import 96,750 barrels of Oil.
- The development will make significant progress towards achieving the commitments of the Kyoto Protocol.

Location of the Proposed Project



OSNI License No. 703, not to scale

Note: The area outlined in red on this map is indicative only of the site under consideration

The Need for Wind Energy

The Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation (NIRO) was published in April 2005 by the Northern Ireland Department of Enterprise Trade and Industry. The NIRO is aimed at increasing the proportion of electricity that is generated from renewable sources in Northern Ireland by legally requiring all electricity suppliers to source a specified quantity of renewable electricity to final consumers. Renewable energy sources in Northern Ireland currently generate just over 3% of the total electricity supply. The NIRO has set the target of producing 12% renewable energy by the year 2012. This target is in line with the indicative 2010 target of 10% for the UK as a whole provided for in Directive 2001/77/EC.Wind energy is expected to make up the majority of this renewable energy. Projects, such as this proposed wind farm, will be fundamental in meeting the Renewables Obligation.

Contact Details

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