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RAKELLY WIND FARM PROPOSAL, NEWTOWNSTEWART, COUNTY TYRONE

Introduction

The proposed 3 turbine wind farm at Rakelly on Bessybell Mountain, Co Tyrone has been enlarged by 4 additional turbines. The proposed wind farm will now be for 7 turbines, and will generate supply approximately 6,696 homes every year. This would represent a 12% addition to the current wind power output in Northern Ireland. This renewable wind energy will be fed into the national electricity grid. The project is being developed by DW Consultancy. Canavan Associates Ltd. are preparing the Planning Application and coordinating the Environmental Impact Assessment for this proposal.

The Proposed Location

The proposed site lies approximately 2 kilometres south west of Newtownstewart, on the townlands of Rakelly and Killydart. It is north of the existing Bessy Bell Wind Farm. The map on the back of this page shows the approximate site location.

The Proposed Project

The proposed development will be composed of 7 wind turbines, access tracks and a new 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 110m.

Site Selection Process

The site at Rakelly has been chosen because of the wind resources available in this upland location, the capacity of the electrical power grid to accommodate the power generated and the principle of wind energy already established in this upland. 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. The results of 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.

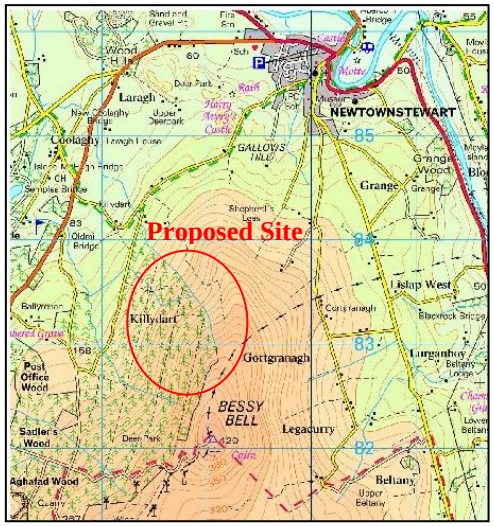
Information Timetable

Research has been ongoing in relation to the preparation of the Environmental Statement and Planning Application. Consultations have begun with the Planning Service, government bodies, agencies, community groups, and local residents. Community members and local residents were initially contacted during the Summer of 2005, and are now being informed of the changes to the project. Those with questions are asked to contact Canavan Associates Ltd, at the details listed here. In order to keep you informed, advertisements and press releases will be printed in the local papers prior to the planning application lodgment and when the planning application and environmental statement submitted to the Planning Service. These notices will include details of where the environmental statement for the wind farm will be available for viewing.

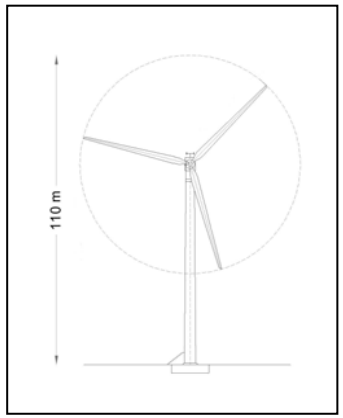
Benefits

- This 7 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 27,120 tonnes of Carbon dioxide, 94 tonnes of Nitrous oxide and 314 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 2100 tonnes of slag and ash each year.
- The locally produced electricity will remove the need to import 77,400 barrels of Oil.
- The development will make significant progress towards achieving the commitments of the Kyoto Protocol.

Location of the Proposed Project



Sample Drawing of a Typical Turbine



OSNI License No. 703

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 EU 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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