



Our Ref: General 40b – Planning Conformity/final responses/Calderdale, Erection of 10 wind turbines, Ovenden Moor, Aug 09

13 August 2009

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Dear Beatrice

**Planning Application Number: 09/00073/WDF**

**Repowering of windfarm, including construction and operation of ten wind turbines (115m height to blade tip), construction of access tracks, crane hardstandings, temporary construction compound, underground cabling, new substation and anemometer to replace the existing 23 turbines, substation and anemometer masts. Foundations of existing 23 turbines to be removed to one metre below ground level minimum with the remaining foundations staying in-situ (Amended Plan)**

Thank you for consulting the Regional Planning Body (RPB) on the above application. I am pleased to forward the following officer comments to you, based on the current RSS (2008).

The Regional Planning Body, has been asked to comment on this development as its nature and location mean that it could have an effect on the implementation of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). The current RSS - The Yorkshire and Humber Plan was issued by the Secretary of State in May 2008. The RSS has the status of a Development Plan Document and forms part of the framework for decisions taken under section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004), which means that decisions on all applications have to be taken in accordance with the Development Plan unless other material considerations indicate otherwise.

## *Regional Planning Context*

### *Climate Change & Renewable Energy*

Policy YH2 of RSS (2008) deals with the issue of climate change and resource use. It states that plans, strategies, investment decisions and programmes should increase renewable energy capacity and carbon capture. In line with these policies, the proposed development will assist in reducing carbon dioxide emissions in the region.

### *Renewable Energy Targets*

Policy ENV5 of RSS (2008) sets West Yorkshire a target of at least 88 MW by 2010 and 295 MW by 2021 for installed grid connected renewable capacity. Table 10.2 recommends a renewable energy target in Calderdale of 19MW to 2010 and 53MW to 2021.

The RPB is encouraged that the proposed re-powered wind farm has a higher installed renewable energy capacity to the previous wind farm which generated 9.2 MW of renewable energy capacity. If approved, the re-powered wind farm, would account for up to 25 MW of installed renewable energy capacity. This would make a significant contribution to the West Yorkshire Sub Regional target and Calderdale's local target for installed grid-connected renewable energy capacity (as set out in Policy ENV5 and Table 10.2 of RSS (2008)).

### *Location*

RSS (2008) states that local authorities have an important role to promote renewable energy development, ideally with other authorities on a sub regional basis, and provide supplementary locational and environmental criteria to be used in assessing such development as needed.

As the site is currently being used as a wind farm consisting of 23 turbines a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) has been undertaken by the applicant to assess the wider impact of the change in view to that of the existing wind farm. Within the 30km study area utilised for the LVIA lie a number of important designations including the Yorkshire Dales National Park, the Peak District National Park, the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The LVIA concluded that in relation to designated landscape there are no significant effects anticipated.

Policy ENV10 of RSS (2008) states that the Region will safeguard and enhance landscapes that contribute to the distinctive character of Yorkshire and Humber: Plans, strategies, investment decisions and programmes should safeguard and enhance the following landscapes and related assets of regional, sub-regional and local importance such as the Yorkshire Dales, the Nidderdale and the Forest of Bowland.

## Conclusion

Given the issues set out above, it is concluded that:

- This development is supported in principle by the RPB as helping to implement the RSS by providing renewable energy generation.
- Local landscape assessments will have to be taken into account by the local authority in reaching its decision.

If you have any queries about this response, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Jenny Poxon  
Head of Service, Planning Delivery and Conformity

**Please note:** from 1 April 2009 officers supporting the work of the Joint Regional Board, the new Regional Planning Body, will work in LGYH; please amend your contact databases accordingly