

Our ref: 40b – Planning Conformity/Final Responses/East Riding, Erection of 6 wind turbines, Nov 08

2 December 2008

Philip Parker  
Head of Planning and Development Control  
East Riding of Yorkshire Council  
County Hall  
Beverley  
East Riding of Yorkshire  
HU17 9BA

Dear Philip

**Planning Application Number: DC/08/04816/STPLFE/STRAT/HCOLD**

**Construction of a wind farm comprising of 6 turbine generators, substation, access and ancillary development at Land North of Sober Hill Farm Stoneknowle Hill, North Newbald, East Riding of Yorkshire.**

The Assembly is grateful for the opportunity to comment on this proposed development. The Assembly, as 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 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 the Humber a target of at least 124MW by 2010 and 350MW by 2021 for installed grid connected renewable capacity. Table 10.2 recommends a renewable energy target in East Riding of 41MW to 2010 and 148MW to 2021. Policy HE1C emphasises the need to develop the Humber sub area's renewable energy generation.

The East Riding Draft Interim Planning Document Renewable Energy (IPD) states that there was by early August 2008 existing developed capacity, or planning approval for, 71 MW of renewable energy to be generated from wind farm developments. Based on information collected for the RSS Annual Monitoring Report (2007) the region installed additional renewable energy capacity from on-shore wind farms in the Region between 2006-2007 of 0.0075 MW. In East Riding the total renewable energy capacity installed by onshore wind development was 0.0015 MW between 2006-2007. However, from talks with officers at the East Riding it has been established that several large wind farm developments have recently been granted planning approval. The figures above from the AMR do highlight that as a region as a whole we need to improve our performance on the delivery of additional renewable energy capacity. It should also be noted that the RSS targets are not "ceiling" figures.

### *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.

The Landscape and Visual Impact Study carried out by the applicant concluded that there are few landscapes into which commercial scale wind farms can be developed without giving rise to landscape and visual effects, and it is therefore accepted from the outset that due to the scale of this proposal, some significant landscape effects will occur.

## **Conclusion**

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

- There is an ongoing need to provide renewable energy in the region. It is clear from evidence provided by Annual Monitoring Report that the region is struggling to meet the challenging targets as set out in the RSS (2008). Local evidence gathered by East Riding shows that the local authority is meeting these regional targets; however it is worth noting that the targets set in the RSS are not ceiling figures.
- Having said this, whilst the Assembly supports local authorities in meeting these regional targets, it also acknowledges that it would not support these targets at any cost to an area's environmental quality. The RSS (2008) makes clear that local authorities must assess renewable

energy developments in terms of locational and environmental criteria. Local evidence suggests that the local landscape at this location would be particularly sensitive to wind farm developments and therefore this must be taken into account by the local authority in reaching its decision. The Assembly would not support the development in principle if it were to have an adverse affect on the local landscape quality.

If you have any queries about these points, please do not hesitate to contact Jenny Poxon on 01924 331601.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Box', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Peter Box  
Chair, Regional Planning Board  
Yorkshire and Humber Assembly