

6th August 2009

Aberdeenshire wind farm given the green light

Scotland's green credentials have been given a boost after a wind farm of up to 16 megawatts (MW) was given the go-ahead in Aberdeenshire.

RWE npower renewables was granted consent today (6th August 2009) for an eight-turbine wind farm on the Kildrummy Estate, 6 kilometres west of Lumsden, following a public inquiry in December 2008.

Project manager Mark Crawford said: "We are delighted at this decision. This has been a long and challenging journey through the local planning system. Today's result will now finally allow us to commit our efforts fully to aiding the Scottish Government's target of producing 50% of electricity from renewable sources by 2020."

Proposals for the wind farm were first announced in 2003. An initial planning application was submitted to Aberdeenshire Council in December 2004 and a revised re-application was submitted two years later in order to reduce concerns raised by statutory consultees and local residents. In September 2007, Aberdeenshire Council refused the proposal, stating it would have an adverse impact on the landscape character of the area.

The week-long public inquiry heard evidence from RWE npower renewables, Aberdeenshire Council, Cairngorms National Park Authority and Kildrummy Windfarm Action Group (KWAG).

Mark Crawford added: "We were profoundly disappointed when Aberdeenshire Council refused the application, but we have always been confident that the project is well-sited, complies with planning policy and will have an acceptable visual effect on the local landscape".

The project is currently expected to enter the construction phase in 2010 and begin generation in 2011. When built, the annual generation expected at the site would be equivalent to the approximate domestic needs of up to 7300 average UK households.²

ENDS

An **RWE** Innogy company

Editor's notes

1. RWE npower renewables is the UK subsidiary of RWE Innogy and is one of the UK's leading renewable energy developers and operators, committed to developing and operating wind farms and hydro plant to produce sustainable electricity. The company operates 19 hydroelectric power projects and 22 wind farms in the UK, including the country's first major offshore wind farm, North Hoyle. RWE npower renewables is also working with marine energy technology partners to deliver new wave and tidal stream power projects in the UK. Through our existing projects and those in development, we are working in close partnership with communities and companies throughout the UK. As Government policy drives the UK towards a target of supplying 10% of electricity from renewables by 2010, and 15% by 2015, we will be at the forefront of realising this aim.

In Scotland, RWE npower renewables operates 12 hydroelectric projects. In addition, the company is currently building two new onshore wind farms; Lochelbank in Perth and Kinross and An Suidhe in Argyll and Bute. When completed in 2010, these wind farms will boost the total number of projects in RWE npower renewables' Scottish wind portfolio to nine. In early 2009, the company received consent for its first wave power project at Siadar, on the Isle of Lewis.

RWE npower renewables is a sister company to RWE npower, a leading integrated UK energy company with around 6.8 million customer accounts. RWE npower also owns and operates a flexible portfolio of conventional power stations as well as a portfolio of cogeneration plant producing more than 10% of the electricity used in England and Wales.

For further information about npower renewables and RWE Innogy visit www.npower-renewables.com and www.rweinnogy.com. For further information about RWE npower visit www.rwenpower.com

2. Energy predicted to be generated by the proposal is derived using wind speeds monitored in the local area and correlating to a Met. Office station providing longer term data. This enables a calculation to be made to estimate the average annual energy production for the site based on 8 turbines each of rated capacity 1.3 MW. The energy capture predicted and hence derived homes equivalent or emissions savings figures may change as further data are gathered.

Equivalent homes supplied is based on an annual electricity consumption per home of 4700 kWh, which is derived from a total UK domestic electricity consumption of 117.589

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terawatt-hours (TWh) (The Digest of UK Energy Statistics 2005) and 25.2 million UK households (Mid-year Household Estimates published in 2004 by the Office for National Statistics).