

## **SUPPLEMENTARY ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION FOR THE LOGIEALMOND WIND FARM PROPOSAL**

### **Introduction**

- 1 In August 2007, AMEC Wind Energy Limited (AWEL) submitted an application to Perth & Kinross Council under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 for the construction, operation and decommissioning of 14 wind turbines, associated infrastructure and additional highways works at Logiealmond in Perthshire. The proposal has resulted from an extensive site selection and design development process to achieve an acceptable design in environmental, engineering and capacity terms, however in July 2008 the application was refused planning consent by Perth and Kinross Council in July 2008.
- 2 In October 2008 AWEL was acquired by the Vattenfall Group and is now known as Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd (VWPL). In December 2008 VWPL decided to appeal the Perth & Kinross Council decision.
- 3 At the Pre-Inquiry meeting in March 2009, it was agreed that VWPL would submit Supplementary Environmental Information (SEI), to include the following:
  - additional bird data
  - additional baseline data on fisheries in relation to the River Tay SAC
  - additional and updated socio-economic information
  - more detailed information on the landscape/visual impact on residential receptors; and
  - updated cumulative landscape and visual impact .

### **Background to the Original Application**

- 4 In developing the Logiealmond Wind Farm proposal, the Appellant conducted a thorough site search over an area of 60km<sup>2</sup> in 2003. Assessment criteria used in this search were: planning policy; potential impact on designated areas; potential impact on amenity (e.g. noise); wind speeds from published databases; distances to nearest electricity transmission infrastructure; land ownership; suitability of the site in terms of the Tayside Landscape Character Assessment, and suitability of access for larger wind turbine components.

### **The Appellant**

- 5 The Appellant, VWPL, is a company registered in England (Company number 6205750). The company (formerly named AMEC Wind Energy Limited) is part of the Vattenfall Group, which is the fifth largest electricity generator in Europe. The parent company of VWPL is Vattenfall AB, which is wholly owned by the Swedish State. The Vattenfall Group currently has operations in Denmark, Finland, Germany, Poland and Sweden and the VWPL has recently acquired sites (both onshore and offshore) for wind energy development in the UK. The Vattenfall Group has a significant track record in the development and operation of wind farms in both the onshore and offshore sectors.

- 6 Vattenfall aims to become the fastest growing wind power developer and operator in Northern Europe. It has a target to increase the electricity production from wind power from 1 TWh to 49 TWh in 2030. This would provide renewable electricity to approximately 10 million homes.

### **Supplementary Environmental Reports**

- 7 This document is intended to provide the further information agreed with the Reporter and to provide that to the Scottish Ministers for their consideration in the determination of the VWPL planning appeal.
- 8 In January 2008, SNH requested that further summer bird surveys be carried out. The consequent report has been produced and is within this document for consideration under the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) (Scotland) Regulations 1999 and follows current best practice.
- 9 At the time of submitting the Logiealmond Wind Farm proposal there were shortfalls in the historical fish population data sets. It was agreed with the Tay and District Salmon Fisheries Board (TDSFB) that further baseline data was required. The subsequent Supplementary Fisheries Report was produced and is now included here for consideration.
- 10 In the current economic downturn, of UK and global economies, it was deemed prudent to re-evaluate the socio-economic benefits of the proposal. In addition to the update the Mansfield Estate provided information for consideration and inclusion here, along with a local public opinion survey commissioned by Vattenfall.
- 11 In response to extensive community consultation, Vattenfall have commissioned a study of Residential Receptors by the landscape consultant.
- 12 The Calliachar Wind Farm proposal has reduced in size from 27 to 14 wind turbines, since the original Logiealmond Environmental Statement was prepared and submitted. Vattenfall have therefore revised the cumulative assessment to demonstrate and to take account of changes in the Calliachar proposal, including new visualisations.

### **Structure of the Supplementary Environmental Information**

- 13 The complete submission comprises the following volumes:
- Volume 1 – Text
  - Volume 2 – Figures and Landscape and Visual Figures and Visualisations
- 14 The reports included in this document, and the consultants responsible for their production, are set out in the following table.

<b>Chapter 1</b>	Further Bird Survey - 2008	Entec UK Ltd
<b>Chapter 2</b>	Supplementary Fisheries Report	AMEC Earth & Environmental
<b>Chapter 3</b>	Updated Socio-economic Assessment	Roger Tym & Partners
<b>Chapter 4</b>	Residential Receptors	Stephenson Halliday
<b>Chapter 5</b>	Updated cumulative landscape & visual Assessment	Stephenson Halliday

### **Where to view the Planning Application**

- 15 The complete submission comprises:
- Logiealmond Wind Farm Environmental Statement Volumes 1 – 5 (2007)
  - Logiealmond Wind Farm Planning Statement (2007)
  - Supporting Planning Statement
  - SEI Volumes 1 and 2 (2009)
- 16 The full set of documents comprising the submission may be viewed at the following locations during normal office hours:
- Perth & Kinross Council Offices, Pullar House, 35 Kinnoull Street, Perth, PH1 5GD; and
  - Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd, Bridge End, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 4NU.
- 17 Alternatively they can be read at the following address at the stated hours:
- Birnam Library, Station Road, Birnam, Dunkeld, PH8 0DS  
Opening hours: Monday 6 pm to 8 pm, Wednesday 2 pm to 4 pm, 6 pm to 8 pm, Friday 10 am to 12 noon, Saturday 10 am to 12 noon

### **Obtaining your own copy of the Planning Application**

- 18 The SEI documents are available, free of charge, on CD and these may be obtained by contacting Vattenfall at the Hexham address (above).