

7. SCOPING AND CONSULTATION

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 This chapter describes the scoping and consultation process undertaken from the purposes of the EIA. In addition it provides a summary of the key issues raised by consultees and reports the conclusions reached as a result of consultations and desk studies.
- 7.1.2 There is no statutory requirement for pre-application consultation under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989, however, as a responsible developer, SSE undertakes extensive pre-application consultation activities to inform the EIA process. A Pre-Application Consultation Report (PACR) has been prepared by Ramboll on behalf of SSE Generation Ltd (the applicant) for this proposed development.
- 7.1.3 The purpose of scoping and pre-application consultation is to:
- Ensure that statutory consultees and other bodies with a particular interest in the environment are informed of the proposal and provided with an opportunity to comment at an early stage in the EIA process;
 - Obtain baseline information regarding existing environmental site conditions;
 - Establish key environmental issues and identify potential effects to be considered during the EIA;
 - Identify those issues which are likely to require more detailed study and those which can be justifiably excluded from further assessment; and
 - Provide a means of confirming the most appropriate methods of assessment.

7.2 Scoping

- 7.2.1 A request for a scoping opinion was submitted on behalf of the applicant, dated 28th April 2017, in accordance with Regulation 7 of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2000 to the Energy Consents Unit. At that stage the proposed development was referred to as the Modified Tangy III Wind Farm. The scoping report provided an outline description of the proposed development and the site location, set out the perceived likely environmental effects that could result from a wind farm development at this site, and the assessment process by which these issues would be evaluated.
- 7.2.2 SSE Generation Ltd. received the scoping opinion from the Energy Consents Unit on behalf of the Scottish Ministers on 16th October 2017. A register of consultation responses along with an explanation of how the EIA Report has responded to the issues raised is provided in Appendix 7.1.
- 7.2.3 Following submission of the request for a scoping opinion, all relevant consultees were re-contacted to agree the level of assessment, survey area and survey timings as well as the preferred method of presenting information. Further details on consultations are included within specific chapters and within the technical appendices where relevant.
- 7.2.4 Pre-application meetings were held with representatives of Scottish Government (Energy Consents Unit), Argyll and Bute Council, SEPA and Scottish Natural Heritage.

Public Consultation

- 7.2.5 Public consultation is a key element of the environmental assessment process, and as part of the wider consultation process. Public exhibitions were held as follows:
- Tayinloan Village Hall – Monday 6th August 2018;
 - Machrihanish Village Hall – Tuesday 7th August 2018; and
 - Campbeltown Town Hall, Tuesday 7 August 2018.

- 7.2.6 The public exhibitions provided information regarding the proposed development to local residents. The events were advertised in the local press and advertised on local notice boards. Community councils, local councillors, MSPs and MPs were advised in advance of these exhibitions in writing. Local community councils consulted included:
- Campbeltown Community Council;
 - East Kintyre Community Council;
 - Southend Community Council;
 - The Laggan Community Council; and
 - West Kintyre Community Council.
- 7.2.7 The information available included plans of the proposed site layout, information boards explaining the potential environmental effects, along with an explanation of the consenting process and the current project stage within that process. A Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) plan was provided to illustrate theoretical turbine visibility within 35 km. Representatives of SSE Renewables and a landscape architect from ASH Design + Assessment were also available to provide additional information and answer queries. The exhibition boards and information leaflet were made available on the Applicant's website (www.sse.com/tangy-repower). The exhibition material and adverts are also contained in the PACR.

Summary of Consultation Issues

- 7.2.8 Through the scoping and consultation processes, the following likely environmental issues were identified for detailed assessment and reporting in the ES:
- Landscape and Visual;
 - Ornithology;
 - Ecology;
 - Geology, Soil and Hydrogeology;
 - Surface Water;
 - Cultural Heritage;
 - Noise;
 - Access Traffic and Transport;
 - Land-use, Socio-economics and Recreation;
 - Shadow Flicker and
 - Aviation.
- 7.2.9 Table 7.1 below lists the environmental parameters subject to environmental assessment and identifies which consultees identified issues or provided information in order to inform the EIA process.

Consultee	Comments/Issues Raised/Baseline Data Provided												
	Landscape & Visual	Ornithology	Ecology	Geology, Soil & Hydrology	Surface Water	Cultural Heritage	Noise	Access Traffic and Transport	Land-use, Socio-economics and Recreation	Shadow Flicker	Aviation	No Comments or Issues Raised	No Response Received
Argyll & Bute Council	■	■	■	■		■		■	■		■		
SEPA			■	■	■				■				
SNH	■	■	■										
HES						■							
FCS									■			■	
Transport Scotland								■					
BT												■	
Glasgow Prestwick Airport												■	
JRC												■	
MOD												■	
RSPB		■	■										
Scottish Water					■							■	
West Kintyre CC	■	■						■	■				
Marine Scotland			■		■								
Fisheries Management Scotland			■		■								
Argyll District Salmon Fisheries Board													■
CAA													■
The Crown Estate													■
NATS Safeguarding													■
MCS													■
Visit Scotland													■
John Muir Trust													■

