



Gordonbush Extension Wind Farm

Environmental Impact Assessment Report

January 2019

Volume 2: Written Statement



VOLUME 2: WRITTEN STATEMENT

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* Please note that the visualisation included on the front cover is extracted from Figure 7.15: Viewpoint 8 (Craggie Beg) and is for illustrative purposes only.

PREFACE

SSE Generation Limited (the “Applicant”) are applying under section 36C of the Electricity Act 1989 and The Electricity Generating Stations (Applications for Variation of Consent) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 to vary the section 36 consent granted (ECU Case ref: EC00003105) by Scottish Ministers on 29 September 2017 (the “relevant section 36 consent”), for Gordonbush Wind Farm Extension (the “Consented Development”). The Applicant is also applying for a direction under section 57(2ZA) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 for variation of the planning permission deemed to be granted for the Consented Development.

This Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report) is submitted with the application in accordance with The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (the “2017 Regulations”).

The Consented Development comprises a total of fifteen turbines with an installed capacity of 56 megawatts (MW). Twelve of the consented turbines have a maximum tip height of 130 metres (m), whilst the remaining three turbines have a maximum tip height of 115m. The Consented Development is an extension to the operational 70MW Gordonbush Wind Farm and would utilise existing infrastructure where possible, including the existing on-site substation to export the generation of electricity to the transmission network.

This variation application under Section 36C and Section 57(2ZA) is seeking to vary the relevant s.36 consent and deemed permission by reducing the number of turbines from fifteen to a maximum of eleven, whilst increasing the tip height of the remaining turbines from 130m up to a maximum tip height of 149.9m (and a maximum rotor diameter of up to 136m). No change in turbine position is proposed (for the remaining eleven turbines). It is anticipated that the capacity of the Proposed Varied Development would exceed 30MW, which combined with the existing Generating Station capacity exceeds 50MW.

In addition to seeking a variation to the Annex 1 Description of Development, the Applicant seeks variations to some of the conditions contained in Annex 2 of the Section 36 Consent and deemed permission to reflect the changes to the description of the turbine specification, and generally to update the conditions. The following Conditions attached to the deemed planning permission have been identified as requiring variation:

- Condition 5: Implementation in accordance with approved plans and requirements of this permission;
- Condition 7: Design and operation of wind turbines;
- Condition 8: Decommissioning and Restoration Plan;
- Condition 10: Electricity Supply;
- Condition 11: Micro-siting;
- Condition 21: Outdoor Access;
- Condition 23: Construction Environment Management Plan;
- Condition 24: Ecological Clerk of Works;
- Condition 25: Habitat Management Plan; and
- Condition 25: Noise.

A copy of the variation application will be served on the Highland Council in accordance with Regulation 4(2)(b) of the Electricity Generating Stations (Applications for Variation of Consent) (Scotland) Regulations 2013, as amended, (“the 2013 Regulations”).

The Applicant has prepared an EIA Report to accompany the variation application. The EIA Report contains the following volumes:

- Volume 1: Non-Technical Summary
- Volume 2: Written Statement
- Volume 3: Figures
- Volume 3A: Visualisations (SNH Methodology)
- Volume 3B: Visualisations (THC Methodology)
- Volume 4: Technical Appendices

The EIA Report is available for viewing at the following locations:

Brora Library and Culture Centre
Gower Street
Brora
KW9 6PD
(open Mon 1-5pm, 6-8pm
Tue 10-5pm. Thur 2-5pm, 6-8pm
Friday 10am-12.30pm, 1.30-4.30pm)

Planning and building standards office
Sutherland and Easter Ross
Drummuie
Golspie
KW10 6TA
(open during normal office hours)

An electronic version is available online at www.sse.com/gordonbushextension

The EIA Report can also be viewed at the Scottish Government Library at Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ and at the following website: www.energyconsents.scot.

Any representations in respect of the application may be submitted via the Energy Consents Unit website at www.energyconsents.scot/Register.aspx; by email to The Scottish Government, Energy Consents Unit mailbox at representations@gov.scot or by post, to The Scottish Government, Energy Consents Unit, 4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU, identifying the proposal and specifying the grounds of representation.

Written or emailed representations should be dated, clearly stating the name of the project (in block capitals), full return email and postal address of those making representations. Only representations sent by email to representations@gov.scot will receive acknowledgement.

All representations should be received not later than the date falling 30 days from the date of the last published notice, although Ministers may consider representations received after this date. Any subsequent additional information which is submitted by the Applicant will be subject to further public notice in this manner, and representations to such information will be accepted as per this notice.

This EIA Report is available in other formats if required. For details, including costs, contact:

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The EIA Report has been advertised in the following newspapers:

- Edinburgh Gazette;
- The Herald; and
- The Northern Times.