



The Planning Inspectorate

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Mrs H Winter
Tynedale District Council
Chief Planning Officer
The Old Grammar School
Hallbankhead
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NE46 1XA, Northd

Your Ref: 20060040
Our Ref: APP/R2928/A/07/2039188/NWF
Date: 24 May 2007

Dear Mrs Winter

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
ELECTRICITY ACT 1989
APPEAL BY WIND PROSPECT DEVELOPMENTS LTD
APPLICATIONS BY AMEC PROJECT INVESTMENTS LTD AND STEADINGS
WINDFARM LTD
LAND AT GREEN RIGG FELL, BIRTLEY; RAY ESTATE, KIRKWHELPINGTON AND
THE STEADINGS, RAYLEES**

I refer to the above appeal and applications.

This letter comprises the relevant notice under Rule 4(1) of The Electricity Generating Stations and Overhead Lines (Inquiries Procedure) Rules 2007 that a public inquiry will be held into the above applications and that there will be a pre-inquiry meeting, the date of which will be notified in due course.

In accordance with Rule 6(12) of the Town and Country Planning (Inquiries Procedure) (England) Rules 2000, and Rule 4(1) of The Electricity Generating Stations and Overhead Lines (Inquiries Procedure) Rules 2007, I set out below the matters about which the Secretaries of State particularly wish to be informed for the purposes of their consideration of the appeal and applications. These matters are as follows and relate to each scheme both individually and cumulatively: -

- a) the extent to which the proposed developments would be in accordance with the relevant development plan(s) for the area(s);
- b) the extent to which the proposed developments would be consistent with the objectives of Government policy on energy as set out in Planning Policy Statement 22: *Renewable Energy*, with particular regard to the Government's commitment to generate 10% of UK electricity from renewable sources by 2010; the wider social, economic and environmental benefits of the development; and the extent to which



any adverse impact has been minimised through careful consideration of location, scale, design and other measures;

- c) the extent to which the proposed developments would be consistent with the Government's policy on energy as set out in particular in the Energy White Paper "*Meeting the Energy Challenge*" (Cm 7124 May 2007);
- d) the justification for the sites, and what other sites were considered and why they were discounted;
- e) the visual impact of the proposed developments, in particular the impact upon the Northumberland National Park and the Northumberland Coastal Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty;
- f) noise generated by the proposed developments;
- g) the impact of the proposed developments on aviation interests;
- h) the impact of the proposed developments on the historic environment including Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site and any other Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the vicinity of the developments;
- i) whether any permission granted for the proposed developments should be subject to any conditions and, if so, the form these should take; and
- j) any other matters that the Inspector considers relevant.

It should be noted that whilst the above matters appear to the Secretaries of State, from the evidence so far available to them, to be the principal ones that need to be addressed, this statement does not preclude the inquiry Inspector from hearing evidence on any other matters that s/he may consider to be relevant to consideration of the appeal and applications. Neither does this statement pre-determine the order in which issues are to be addressed at the inquiry or imply any particular order of importance.

Please note that correspondence concerning the appeal by Wind Prospect Developments Ltd will be dealt with by the Planning Inspectorate, and that correspondence concerning the applications by AMEC Project Investments Ltd and Steadings Windfarm Ltd will be dealt with by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Yours sincerely

Debbie Smith

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