

Culhuinich,
Glass, Huntly,
Aberdeenshire,
AB54 4YA

2nd December, 2004

Dear Mr. Short,

Clashindarroch Wind Farm Proposals, Glass

Following our conversation today, I wish to comment on the EIA reports commissioned by AMEC. If you are not dealing with this matter, would you be kind enough to pass it on to whoever is.

It was very encouraging to us who care about the particular scenic beauty of the Deveron Valley that Moray had turned down AMEC's proposal on the grounds of visual impact. It was wrong to say in the report that there were no national scenic areas within 25 mile radius of the study area. Apparently part of it was down graded from Tier 3 to Tier 4 in the six months before the application was presented. This should be seriously looked into.

9 of the turbines (No's 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41 and 44) will be considerably detracting from the setting of a historically and architecturally important 'A' listed building, Beldorney Castle, due to their proximity, exposed location, height and appearance' This would be contrary to the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997, section 59 and Government planning advice on the historic environment, as set out in National Planning Policy Guideline NPPG 18, pars 12 and 43 and the Memorandum of Guidance on listed buildings and conservation areas 1998, Appendix 1, para 10.1.0. In view of this, Historic Scotland has registered its objection to the proposed wind farm development and has requested that amendments be sought to re-position or delete the above mentioned 9 turbines in order to safeguard the setting of this nationally and internationally important building. It is one of the first examples of a Z plan tower house (mid 16th century origin, with 17th century additions and 18th and 19th remodelling) and is the first and finest example in the north-east of Scotland.

We are very concerned about the new access road not on the original plans, because it goes through an SSSI on the Craigs of Succoth where 30-50 slow growing Juniper will have to be removed and later replaced by cuttings and returned turfs. This is deemed 'high impact' in the report in a site of 'regional importance'. We wonder why this road is needed, as there are plenty of forest roads already on the other side of the hill, well used to large heavy duty transporting vehicles. The plans to transport the enormous (100m) turbines along the narrow Edinglassie approach road off the A920 is going to cause considerable disruption to the lives of the people who live along there. This does not seem to have been considered in the reports. It will become a one way system requiring a very long diversion. Community concerns are not adequately addressed in the reports. The impacted people have not been consulted on the issues since the new road was inserted into the plans, as they should have been.

We wonder what are the precise grievance procedures for local people? This is very important. If things go wrong, or there are unforeseen impacts, who do community members go to? What happens next? We need details on how concerns will be addressed.

Do the impact assessments comply with requirements for social impact assessments one wonders? Little thought seems to have been given to that.

There are serious concerns about the impact of the development on the Deveron and Bogie river systems and the salmon life therein due to expected silt run off. The proposed silt traps will not be adequate in the event of a 1 in 10 yr storm, of which there have been 3 in the last 5 years, causing mud and peat slides, flooding and severe damage to the salmon population. The fine silt covers the eggs, settles on the gravel, cements up resulting in fish eggs being swept away and turbidity (cloudiness) severely impacts on the ability of fish to feed and forage. If there has to be this development, surely it would be better to avoid wiping out the entire salmon population of the Deveron Bogie river system by concentrating it on one side of the hill only, where most of the turbines will be. Hydrological impacts of the wind farm and associated development are a key community concern. From the EIA, it appears hydrology data collected is very limited, collected from the site only 3 times during the one spring/summer season. Has on-site

hydrology/meteorology data been collected year round? Is there adequate seasonal data to allow for worst-case scenarios during construction? Hydrology/meteorology data was cited as being used from 1950's-80's from neighbouring communities. Where is this and how are rainfall patterns comparable?

The Environmental Statement refers to a 'community fund' to provide 'direct benefits to the local economy and environment'. What are the terms of this fund? Who will administer it and decide how it is spent? How will the community be involved in AMEC's eyes? Will it benefit those who are most impacted by the project?

How will the proposed mitigation measures be monitored? This is very important. A detailed plan/timetable of monitoring activities are needed that can be independently verified. How can the local community be involved in verification/monitoring of the project?

We do hope that Moray will see fit to continue with its opposition to the plans, for whatever reasons. Aberdeenshire Council recommended it went ahead without proper consideration of the views of the people affected.

Yours sincerely,

Anne L. Forbes