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To: All Applicants, Powys CC and the Alliance

Your Ref / Eich Cyf:

Our Ref / Ein Cyf:

Date / Dyddiad: 10 April 2013

Dear Sir/Madam

The Mid-Wales Conjoined Wind Farms Public Inquiry

In response to correspondence from several applicants relating to evidence at the opening session of the Inquiry, the Inspector has asked me to confirm the following:

The suggestion that the session on interpretation and application of energy and planning policy could best be dealt with as a structured hearing session, rather than a formal presentation of cases and cross examination, is welcomed as highly constructive and helpful.

As the context and hierarchy of International, European, UK, and Welsh obligations, and policies to implement those obligations (including local policies), is well understood and has been dealt with at many Inquiries, it is expected that a great deal of common ground can be quickly reached on these matters.

It is, however, likely that there will be differences between the parties on the interrelationship and application of the relevant policies to the specific application sites. In particular it would be helpful to explore any differences of view there might be about the interrelationship between national energy policy statements NPS-01 and NPS-03, and Welsh policy, including the spatially specific approach and finite environmental capacities for the Strategic Search Areas set out in TAN 8 (as clarified in the Minister's letter of July 2011). In this regard it would also be helpful to explore any differences of view there might be about whether the Llandinam site should be regarded as being within or without SSA C, for the purposes of TAN 8.

As they are different in some material respects from the policy relating to onshore wind energy generation, the policies specific to electricity lines can be most efficiently and effectively dealt with in detail during Inquiry Session 3. Nevertheless SP Manweb is strongly encouraged to participate in the preparation of a Statement of Common Ground. As TAN 8, and the subsequent Minister's letter of July 2011 include statements about transmission network reinforcement and the need for large-scale network infrastructure in the context of

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identified maximum capacities in Mid Wales, it is also considered important that SP Manweb should participate in the hearing session.

In line with general Hearing procedures, it would be helpful if the cases for the parties could be set out in concise 'Statements of Case', rather than formal Proofs of Evidence (though in practice there should be little difference).

To make the most of the hearing session, it would be helpful if draft Statements of Case could be circulated in the next few weeks, as a catalyst for discussions leading to agreement on, and drafting of a Statement of Common Ground (SCG) by 7 May. It would be helpful if a 'volunteer' could come forward in the next week or so, to lead and coordinate the preparation of the SCG.

Final Statements of Case (which then need not deal with matters agreed as common ground) should be submitted by 14 May. These will then be circulated and taken into account in preparing a detailed agenda for the hearing session, which will be issued at least 1 week in advance of the opening of the Inquiry. The Inspector would not wish to exclude any person from participating in discussions at the hearing session (provided of course that the contribution to the discussion is relevant and not repetitive), and so would not wish to set a deadline for confirmation of participation. However, 14 May should be regarded as the deadline for submission of Statements of Case.

Yours faithfully

Hefin Jones

Mr Hefin Jones
Lead Procedure & Business Support Officer
Swyddog Arweiniol Gweithdrefn a Chefnogi Busnes