

For the attention of Chris Banks  
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Our ref: SS19/ED04/31495.110/SUTHE

Your ref:

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When telephoning please ask for: Elizabeth Dunn

Dear Sirs

**Mid-Wales Conjoined Inquiries**

**Application by Vattenfall dated 30 November 2007 for consent to construct and operate a 59.5MW wind turbine generating station in Powys, Mid-Wales ("Llanbadarn Fynydd")**

We refer to the updated draft timetable for the Inquiry which was issued on 18 March 2013.

We have reviewed the timetable and identified a number of matters, listed below, where it would be very useful for further information or clarification to be provided. Ideally these details can be provided in the next draft of the timetable which is produced.

1 Overarching planning and energy policy

The topics for the opening session are listed as opening submissions and planning and energy policy (interpretation and application) but no deadline has been allocated for the submission of evidence in relation to planning and energy policy. We should be grateful if you would confirm the position in relation to the submission of evidence to be dealt with at this session so that the relevant materials are prepared and submitted at the appropriate time to ensure this is a useful session for all parties.

Our understanding is that each developer will be submitting full written evidence that supports its project in order that there is a clearly identifiable body of evidence related to each scheme. The Inspector is then looking for co-operation between the developers as to how much of that written evidence has to be heard, with the primary objective being the avoidance of repetition.

Overarching energy policy is an area where repetition of evidence would be quite likely, so whilst each developer would submit whatever it considered appropriate to support its scheme, there is scope either for this to become one written proof in support of all projects, or if separate proofs are submitted, for only one witness to appear in support of all schemes. Either approach would still require a deadline to be set for exchange of written evidence on this policy area, which presumably would be 4 weeks before the opening of the inquiry, i.e. 7 May 2013.

2 Individual schemes' grid connections to mid-Wales hub

During the PIM, the Inspector noted that the submission of information on each scheme's grid connection to the mid-Wales hub would be useful however it would not be a mandatory requirement. We would be grateful if confirmation could be provided of the deadline for this information to be submitted and whether these matters will be dealt with in Sessions 1 and 2 (depending on scheme location) or Session 4.

Our understanding from the second PIM was that these would be dealt with in Session 4, as updated grid information from SPEN is not anticipated until the Autumn, which means SEI prepared on that

material would not be able to be submitted and consulted upon and thus able to be considered at the Inquiry until 2014.

3 Cumulative grid issues

It is not clear from the timetable whether cumulative grid issues (i.e. the cumulative effects of all potential grid connection scenarios) will be heard as part of Session 4 and confirmation of this would be welcomed.

4 Local planning policy evidence and associated deadlines

The current version of the timetable does not allocate any time for the hearing of local planning policy evidence for each of the schemes (or, consequently, provide the associated deadlines for the production of evidence in relation to this topic). The issue was addressed at length in the round table session at the second PIM, and whilst noting the Inspector's concern about the value to him of multiple opinions on the planning balance that is to be struck, it remained common ground between all the parties that there would be need for each scheme to submit evidence on the relevance of local planning policy to each project.

Again, we would be grateful if this could be clarified so that sufficient time is allocated during the Inquiry and all parties are clear as to the deadlines for the submission of the relevant documents and material. The time presently allocated for the closing session would not seem adequate to accommodate this evidence. If the preference is to keep the closing session as short as presently intended, the alternative would be to invite site specific planning policy to be introduced as a subject for both sessions 1 and 2, with the indication that any questions of planning balance, even if addressed in those proofs, will be held over to the closing session.

5 Session 4

It is our understanding that the cumulative issues for all the schemes will be dealt with in Session 4. We note that noise is not listed as a cumulative topic to be discussed in this session. Please can you confirm if it is only intended for noise to be considered during Sessions 1 and 2 or if it will be dealt with as a cumulative issue in Session 4 as well.

6 Detailed timetables for each session

We understand that the Inspector is currently considering the preparation of detailed timetables for each session. To assist with this process, we are instructed to liaise with Fferm Wynt Llaithddu Cyf and CeltPower Limited to develop a detailed timetable for Session 1 and all the developers regarding a detailed timetable for Session 4. Assuming this will assist the Inspector, could you please let us know if it would be useful to have this information by a particular date and if the results of any discussions will be taken into account in the preparation of the detailed timetables.

We also note that the deadlines for submission of statements of common ground have been set at 8 weeks before Sessions 1, 2 and 3 but at 4 weeks before Session 4. We would be grateful for confirmation that the final date is correct

Finally, we note that Monday 29 May 2014 has been identified as a bank holiday rather than Monday 26 May 2014.

We look forward to hearing from you soon. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the writer, Sarah Sutherland.

Yours faithfully



BURGESS SALMON LLP

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