

Michael and Claudi Halsey

To: Chris Banks, Programme Officer. Conjoined Public Inquiry-Mid-Wales

Date: 5th.August,2013

Dear Mr. Banks,

Subject: **CONJOINED WINDFARM PUBLIC INQUIRY-WELSHPOOL**
Document: **PROOF OF EVIDENCE-Private Residents-Michael & Claudi Halsey**

We refer to our original Public Inquiry Statement of Objections dated 18/1/13, our Statement of Case of 8/7/13 and confirm we wish to speak at the Inquiry, inter alia, on the following areas of concern /objections that we have in relation to further wind farm development ,the subject of the Inquiry :-

- I) **Note 1**-we reserve the right to include additional/revised information that comes to light between now & the date we are called to speak at the Inquiry.
- II) **Note 2**-References-unless otherwise specified , data/ information etc.will have come from normal sources readily available in the public domain

Introduction

We will give details of our occupancy at Lower Foel Farmhouse (LFF)& smallholding over the last 9years from a semi-derelict farmhouse unoccupied for 57 years to our home today.
(To include slides/video clips)

1)AS UK CITIZENS-

a)-**The National Grid (NG)**-ref. to De-stabilisation of NG due to erratic energy production from wind farms (W/F) ;Constraint Payments ;Massive Infrastructure requirements.

b)-**The UK economy & UK business in particular.** Ref to :-

British Industry costs for Renewable energy

	2012	+21%
	Est.2020	+58%

Source: Comm. For Climate Change-Dec.2012

Est. total cost to British Industry+ consumers **Est.2020 £7.6 Billion pa #.!!**

-Single largest element =subsidy to Renewables of which Wind energy is the largest element.

Source: Energy Intensive Users group -Jeremy Nicholson. (Director)-(July '13)

“We can't be sure that the wind jobs will be in the UK(for UK workers) ,but there is no doubt that the jobs lost through high energy costs really will be British “

Dr .John Constable, Renewable Energy Foundation (July,2013)

c)-**Cost of Wind Energy to UK citizens.**

i) Increase in cost of electricity to ordinary citizens

ii) ***”British jobs for British workers”-Nick Clegg Dep.PM.(July 2013)***

Example:Skegness Offshore W/F -Cost-£1billion-opened 1/8/13 by Mr.Clegg.

Operator -Centrica-----Maint. workers-flown in from Scandanavia; Blades & turbines made by German Siemens in Denmark ;Cabling made by a French firm in Germany & Norway etc,etc
Subsidy: British-Developers guaranteed TRIPLE Mkt. Rate for Offshore power through to 2019.
Payee: British electricity consumers !!

2) AS RESIDENTS OF POWYS COUNTY

We will speak to :-

a) **Potential failure of democratic process to uphold Local Planning Authority decisions-**

Residents of Mid-Wales have made representations to our elected Local County Councillors over a number of years. Councillors in turn have reflected the views of the vast majority of residents by *not granting planning consent for further W/F developments*-the subject of this Inquiry.

Whitehall (DECC) have called this Inquiry and even if ,as we hope & pray, this view is upheld by this Inquiry,we are still left with the potential of that decision being overruled by the Sec. Of State for Energy (currently Ed. Davey).

Should you Sir,or DECC take this adverse position,for whatever reason, you will be flying in the face of local public opinion here in Mid-Wales & thereby demonstrate a failure in the democratic process & in particular the new Ministerial statement recently given by Eric Pickles MP.,Sec. of State for Communities & Local Govt. on the importance of "*Localism*" :-

"The need for renewable energy does not automatically override environmental protections & the planning concerns of Local Govt. " (June,2013)

b) **Potential wholesale desecration of our beautiful landscape-**

-Slides/+ short video clips depicting local area to be shown.

c) **Potential traffic chaos caused by major road & bridge infrastructure plans et al-**

Stats: **AILS-** Blades-< 55metres(179 feet) long & Nacelles< 5metres (16.25feet) wide.
Approx.7 AILs per turbine = 119 transits(L/F) & 161(G/L W/F) = **Total =280 transits !!**
Mid-Wales Est.3,300 abnormal loads Monday to Friday(daylight hours) over approx 5yrs.
Source: PCC-Powys W/F Access Routes Study Report -Sept,2008.

Plus HGV trips- Est. 1,000 per turbine on average. =**17,000 trips for L/F W/F alone !!**

NB. Personal travel ; My family & I travel From our home to Newtown on average once a day & we & our neighbours are bound to be held up in the traffic chaos that these vehicles will bring.

Slides: pictures of transit route on C Class road between Kerry & Dolfor
pictures of railway bridge at Crossgates, Radnorshire.

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d) **Costs to our Community -**

-Damage to properties (Private & Commercial) on or near transit routes
-Devaluation of properties

- Cost to businesses-major traffic congestion-loss of Tourism etc.
- Loss of our beautiful landscape
- Loss of Wildlife-New research in USA indicates bird deaths from W/t collision may have been under-estimated by up to 30% . Source: Birdwatch-July,2013.
- Community relationships.-major stressors for potential victims as well as local beneficiaries of W/F developments.

3) AS RESIDENTS OF LOWER FOEL FARMHOUSE(LFF)

Potential threat to the present peace & enjoyment of our home,inter alia caused by, and with particular reference to, the proposed adjoining Llanbadarn Fynydd W/F development & also the proposed Neuadd Goch Bank (NGB)- in planning .Whilst it is appreciated NGB is not the subject of this Inquiry it's close proximity to LFF & thereby the L/F W/F,we feel it relevant to include it herein.

Background:.Please see Introduction & Statement of Objections dated-18/1/13

a) Noise pollution

1)**Data:** Proximity of nearest W/T's- L/F—Approx.750/800m. (T1) ; NGB- Approx.-850/900m.
 L/F Turbines:-17 x 126.5m (411 feet) Hub height-80m ; +NCB 10 turbines (approx. same)
 On site Borrow Pits-Yes.
 Grid connection-no details of structures, height or routing.
 Turbines: VestasV90-3.0MW- Vattenfall's own acoutician (Darren Humpheson-Bureau Veritas-Aug'13) describes them as-” *The Vestas Turbine has one of the noisiest standard operating noise profiles* “-see also 3.14 below

LFF will therefore be surrounded on 3 sides-NW clockwise to SW (270degrees) by W/T's.
 The remaining aspect to the West we believe will possibly be taken up with pylons for the Llandinham Re-Powering scheme &/or the pylons to export L/F's power to the Hub at Cefn Coch.

(Data supplied by Devs.)

2)Constrn. Noise

This aspect is being dealt with in some detail by other Objectors therefore we shall only touch on it. The period of construction for both L/F and NGB whether simultaneous or un-aligned will present us with protracted periods of noise in our present tranquil & peaceful environment.

Please note ;-

I work at home -more often outside ,working on our renovation .

My wife works part-time .

Quest.1-Why isn't Sat a.m. included in quiet time?

Quest 2-Why are Quiet times over-ridden during periods of Turbine erection ?

3) Operational Noise Pollution

Vattenfall's (Feb'13) SEI-” *The modelling demonstrates that the W/F can operate without breaching accepted (ETSU-R-97)W/F noise criteria. As such no significant effects are predicted to occur.*”

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We reject this statement & similar ones made by the Developers & their representatives as in our view we believe that :-

3.1.Etsu-R-97 fails any longer to protect the very people it was set up to defend. Their guidelines appear to be only accepted by the W/F Industry & their paid experts together with the Govt., such

parties having a vested interest in the promotion of further W/F development.

- 3.1 The criteria was laid down some 16 years ago for much smaller W/Ts than the taller & more powerful turbines that now exist.
- 3.2 It has recently been “up-dated” (May '13)giving greater license for developers to increase night-time noise levels -clearly detrimental to private residents having W/T's imposed on them in close proximity to their homes..
- 3.3 Yet again ,despite substantive evidence to the contrary, it's authors fail to address the very real hazard of Infrasound coming from W/t's
- 3.4 The opportunity for effective redress viz the timely suspension of suspect W/T's etc for victims of W/T noise,has sadly been missed again.
- 3.5 Implementation of strict controls & monitoring of W/t noise at all times has not been taken.
- 3.6 Medical evidence & research substantiating W/t noise & the effect on human population has been dismissed..

In support of our view we cite & refer to the following evidence:-

- 3.7 **Infrasound**-our co-objector **Mr.Barry Crawford** will present evidence on this. The refs. below also expand on this & other matters referred to above.
- 3.8 **ETSU-R-97 (ET)-Mr. Geoffrey Weller Bsc.CEng.FIET-(POE July'13.)**
Ref:Amplitude Modulation (AM) from W/T's:-
” I have highlighted evidence that the original working group that produced ET,described AM & then ignored it's significance to people who may be effected. I have shown that ET is insufficient to protect the publicfrom the effects of AM. ”
“ Taller & more numerous W/t leads to an increased risk of AM causing intolerable distress,sleep problems & consequent health risks to neighbours”
- 3.9 **Bad Science Behind the Wind Turbine Noise Guidelines-Nat. Wind Watch Mar.'13**
- 3.10 **Instit.of Acoustics-New W/F Guidance is Inadequate-Renewable Energy Found.-**
(24th.May,2013)
- 3.11 **Wind Turbine Syndrome & Health-by Dr. Sarah Myhill (POE- August ,2013)**
- 3.12 **Noise Radiation from Wind Turbines installed near homes : Effects on Health-**
-Frey & Hadden (Feb.2007) + (Jan.2012 Summary/conclusions)
- 3.13 **First Hand Testimonies** from victims of W/T Syndrome etc.-See Appendix 1.
- 3.14 **Vestas V90 3MW W/T's -”Survey finds high rate of W/T Syndrome from newer Turbine Models.”-East County mag. March,2012.**

Vattenfall's Opening Submission-Human Health(10) June '13:-

“The fact remains there is no objective evidence in the UK linking turbines with adverse health effects “ (4/6/13)

Comment:-You may understand the our concerns & that of our neighbours when we read such sweeping statements. May we respectfully suggest the writer may like to study the above in the first instance?

b)Shadow Flicker.

Ref to P.437 et al of Nuon's E.S (Nov.07) Vol.1 text.-analysis of status at LFF(No.16) missing-stops at No.15.

Specular Reflection-no comment by Developers. Testimony of epileptic fitting from approx. 4 kms.from local W/T given -See Appendix 2

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c)-Water Pollution

Ref. To Dev's ES.

Comment:If they are confident of no hazard to our water supplies,nor our brook feeding into the

R.Ithon (& then onto the R. Wye) *please confirm their willingness,as a Condition, to sign a full Hold Harmless Agreement compensating us for all costs,expenses & consequential losses should our water supplies & /or brook become in any adverse way affected post development.?*

d) **Impeding of emergency response capability to our remote home.**

Ref to-potential failure of Emergency services to reach our home in an emergency(inclgd. Wales Air Ambulance)

e) **Blighted visual amenity (including cumulative impact from other wind farms.)**

-Ref.Supp. ES.(Feb013)-Residential Visual Amenity Assessment-Paras 2+3

Comment; The fact that at present LFF has no man made intrusion to Landscape & Visual-but could be totally surrounded by W/T's from L/F & NGB proposed W/F's + pylons suggests the Dev's comments that their W/t's "would have no substantial overbearing effect" beggars belief!

Despite the difficulties in living at a remote location with no services,we love our home at LFF & the peace & tranquility that we enjoy was a major factor in purchasing this semi-derelict isolated farmhouse. This will be lost completely with the unwelcome intrusion of noise pollution & the over-bearing + 400foot W/T's that could surround us.

Conclusion:

We can see no justification for further W/F development either here or elsewhere .They are erratic,inefficient & extremely costly. No developer would be interested in such an investment without the attractive guarantees offered by our Govt. & paid for by ordinary consumers & UK businesses.

Furtermore they bring blight to beautiful landscapes such as Mid-Wales & inflict distressing noise pollution & ill-health on nearby residents whose homes then become unsaleable because of W/F blight.

The truth is major W/F developments do not benefit the vast majority of people in the UK- quite the contrary they present costly penalties in terms of our economy,business & the health & well-being of it's citizens and countryside.

Sir, it is for these reasons we ask you to endorse the planning decisions of our County Council and reject further windfarm development in Mid-Wales

Yours very sincerely

Michael A. Halsey

Claudi Halsey

WindInquiryPOE050813

"For God so loved the world that He sent his only son,Jesus, that all that believe in Him will not perish but have eternal life" John 3v16

1.1-Hadyard Hill W/F-Mrs. Kay SIDDLE of “ High Tralorg” Letter-6/4/12

“The effects on us are manifold,physical & financial”

!2-Hadyard Hill W/F- Mrs. Kay SIDDLE(resident)- Submission to The Scottish Parliamentary Inquiry into Energy Targets.-10/2/13

!3 Hadyard Hill W/F- Mr. David BALDWIN(resident)-Letter -8/4/12 -WFS inc. Shadow Flicker.

1.4 H.H. W/F-Mr. Robt.Baldwin (resident)-E-Mail -7/2/13 to Graham Lang.-Update.

1.5 Knockglass Farm-Jackson family (residents)-Letter 7/2/13 re:Proven 35-2 w/t's

1.6 WAG. Petitions Comm. Chm. Wm .Powell AM.-Meeting at Trinity College Carmarthen,-28/2/12. Testimonies from residents.

1.7 Nat. Assembly for Wales-Petitions Comm.-”Control of Noise from Wind Turbines”-May., 2012.

1.8 Ms. Oili Hedman (resident) re. Dolfor W/T. Newtown.-Shadow Flicker & Specular Reflection.-Letter 3/8/13 re: incident-20/8/12

1.9 Llandinham W/F- Chris Lord-smith.(resident) Letter 18/7/13. - W/T noise nuisance.

1.10 Ms. Sally Parsons (resident)-re. Dolfor W/T. -Letter 10/7/13 to EHO,W'pool.

NB1. Please note some of the above may be called as witnesses to testify at the Inquiry.

Naturally the number will be restricted & due notice given in good time to the Prog.Off.

MAH/Appen/WFI050813