

From:
Sent: 17 November 2014 12:18
To:
Subject: FW: Hill of Lychrobbie DIO19464
Attachments: 13_03555_FUL-RESPONSE_-_MOD-612856.pdf; ATT331783.htm; FW: Hill of Lychrobbie DIO19464

Hi

You will recall that [redacted] asked whether lining up the Hill of Lychrobbie turbines away from the radar would result in any mitigation. This query was passed to [redacted] and his comments were passed back to [redacted]; please see the attached email.

From this, [redacted] seems some how to have inferred that one turbine might be acceptable to us. I guess that this is not the case, but can you confirm?

Kind regards

From:
Sent: 13 November 2014 16:00
To:
Subject: Re: Hill of Lychrobbie DIO19464

Re-reading your email below, it appears that the radar specialist was considering a mitigation scenario of 2 turbines. If we only installed one, would that reduce the return to an acceptable level? Due to the timing of grid capacity becoming available, we were actually planning to install 1 turbine initially followed by the other 2 a year later. Could we install 1 and then fund an operational assessment, leading to a determination on the acceptability of the remaining 2 turbines based on actual data?

I note also that the Newlands of Houstry project secured a conditional objection from MoD which allowed them to be determined, although they were in fact refused by Highland Council - your final response to their application is attached. It appears from your letter that MoD were planning to publish a report on potential mitigation solutions in Spring 2014, has this been produced and does it clarify the potential options available to our project?

Regards

25/06/2015



Defence
Infrastructure
Organisation

Your Ref. 13/03555/FUL
DIO Ref. DE/C/SUT/43/10/1/19233

Telephone [MOD]:

Facsimile [MOD]:

E-mail:

Via Email

15 January 2014

Dear

Erection of 3 no. wind turbines, with a height to tip of 67m, height to hub of 45m and a rotor diameter of 44m and associated infrastructure including access track, crane hardstanding and sub-station building (Upper Smerral Wind Farm) at land 690M SE of Newlands of Houstry, Dunbeath

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) objected to the above application in the letter to The Highland Council dated 24th October 2013.

The MOD objected on the grounds that the proposed development would have an adverse impact upon the Air Traffic Control (ATC) radar at RAF Lossiemouth. The MOD noted that if the developer is able to overcome these unacceptable impacts that the turbines should be fitted with appropriate aviation lighting.

As you may be aware, the MOD has been in discussions with the applicant since the submission of this objection letter with a view to reaching agreement on appropriate mitigation to address the unacceptable impacts of this development. The updated MOD position is set out below:

ATC radar at RAF Lossiemouth

The applicant submitted a technical proposal to mitigate the unacceptable affects of the proposed development on the ATC radar at RAF Lossiemouth. The proposal has been accepted by the MOD, and a planning condition has been agreed with the applicant. A draft is included at Annex A for the Council's consideration.

Please note that the MOD is unaware of any proposed mitigation schemes within the military ATC environment which have been successfully implemented to date. You may be aware that the MOD

has undertaken a Technology Demonstration (TD) programme of potential mitigation solutions during the summer of 2013. This is now due to report in the spring of 2014.

Aviation Lighting

In the objection letter of 24th October 2013 the MOD identified that if the developer is able to overcome the radar issue, the MOD will request that *'all turbines are fitted with 25 candela omni-directional red lighting or infrared lighting with an optimised flash pattern of 60 flashes per minute of 200ms to 500ms duration at the highest practicable point'*. The MOD has agreed a planning condition with the applicant and a draft is included in Annex A for the Council's consideration.

In light of the above, the MOD would be prepared to remove its objection to this application subject to appropriate conditions being imposed upon the consent, if granted. Should the Council be minded to amend any of the conditions in Annex A, the MOD would welcome the opportunity to discuss these amendments with the Council.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any additional information, or should you wish to discuss matters.

Yours sincerely

Enc. Annex A