By email to: Econsents_Admin@gov.scot

Energy Consents Unit
Directorate for Energy and Climate Change
5 Atlantic Quay
150 Broomielaw
Glasgow
G2 8LU

16 April 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

Strath Oykel Wind Farm: Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report

ECU reference: ECU00003246

Background and Context

1.   EnergieKontor has submitted a scoping report for a wind farm of up to 16 turbines of up to 250m BTH, south of Lairg. It lies immediately south of the application site of the Meall Buidhe wind farm proposal.

2.   Mountaineering Scotland is a membership organisation with more than 14,000 members and is the only recognised representative organisation for hill walkers, climbers, mountaineers and ski-tourers who live in Scotland or who enjoy Scotland's mountains, and acts to represent, support and promote Scottish mountaineering. Mountaineering Scotland also acts on behalf of the 80,000 members of the British Mountaineering Council (BMC) on matters related to landscape and access in Scotland, and provides training and information to mountain users to promote safety, self-reliance and the enjoyment of our mountain environment.

Assessment

3.   Mountaineering Scotland endorses the proposed mountain viewpoints - Ben More Assynt, Seana Braigh and Carn Chuinneag.

4.   Carn a'Choin Deirg is not proposed as a viewpoint. This summit is a 'Graham', which is "a Scottish hill between 2000 and 2499 feet high with a drop of at least 150 metres on all sides".

5.   Carn a'Choin Deirg has been proposed for the nearby current Meall Buidhe wind farm application, and also for the proposed Braelangwell windfarm development. Given the proximity of these three schemes, and that it is the closest 'listed' hill to the proposed Strath Oykel wind farm (approximately 6km away) we suggest the inclusion of Carn a'Choin Deirg as a viewpoint.

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I hope that these comments are helpful in your consideration of this proposal.

Yours sincerely

D. Black

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