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Energy Consents Unit
Directorate for Energy and Climate Change
5 Atlantic Quay
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8 December 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

Musdale Wind Farm: Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report

ECU reference: ECU00002168

Background and Context

Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd has submitted a scoping report for a wind farm of up to 26 turbines of up to 200m blade-tip-height, 9km SE of Oban.

Mountaineering Scotland is a membership organisation with almost 15,000 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 85,000 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

Mountaineering Scotland is in general content with the proposed methodology in the Scoping Report.

Three hill viewpoints are proposed: Beinn Cruachan (10km from the site), Beinn Bhuidhe (22km) and Ben Lora (14km). The first two are in Wild Land Areas. We think that this is an adequate set of viewpoints. Visual impact will be felt on other hills, for example, Ben Starav and Ben Lui, but in the same direction as proposed viewpoints and at greater distance.

The site sits between two operational wind farms, Beinn Ghlas to the north and Carraig Gheal to the southeast. Carraig Gheal is particularly significant since it is widely visible. The comparative ZTVs of Musdale and Carraig Gheal will be of interest if an application is made.

It is noted that a proposal for a wind farm at Upper Sonachan, east of Loch Awe, was received by DPEA in 2017, which was refused in 2019, primarily for the orientation of the layout of the proposal.



Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Black". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'D' and a trailing 'k'.

Davie Black
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Mountaineering Scotland

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