

By email to: Econsents_Admin@gov.scot

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

5 December 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

Watchman Wind Farm: Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report

ECU reference: ECU00006030

Background and Context

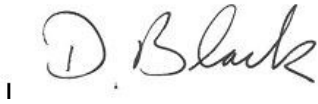
1. Renewco Power Ltd has submitted a Scoping Report for a wind farm of 16 turbines of 240m BTH on the Donalds west and southwest of the Daer Reservoir, in the gap between Clyde and Harestanes wind farms. There are two live applications to the east of the Daer Reservoir, Rivox and Daer, to which Mountaineering Scotland has objected on the basis of their closing the visual gap between the Clyde wind farm landscape and the Harestanes cluster. These applications sit adjacent to one another on the slopes of the watershed, immediately west of the Daer Reservoir.
2. Mountaineering Scotland is a membership organisation with 16,000 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. We represent, support and promote Scottish mountaineering, and provide training and information to mountain users for safety, self-reliance and the enjoyment of our mountain environment.
3. The turbines would be located on the upper slopes and ridgelines around Comb Law and Rodger Law, the latter turbines approaching within 1km of Ballencleuch Law. These three summits are 'Donalds', Scottish hills above 2000ft/610m that lie outwith the Highlands, and are often visited by hillwalkers. two further Donalds lie around 3km to the south (Scaw'd Law, Wedder Law) and the landmark Queensberry is within 7km southeast of the nearest turbine.

Assessment

Mountaineering Scotland endorses the hillwalking viewpoints listed in the Report: 1,3, 6-9, 11, 12 and 14. It is our opinion that Viewpoint 2, Pykestone Hill, selected to represent the view from the Tweeddale NSA, at a distance of 32km will have a negligible impact in the LVIA. We suggest a more

useful viewpoint from a hillwalking perspective would be Broad Law, in the same angle of view, significantly more popular and closer, and suggest this as a replacement for Pykestone Hill.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Black". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small vertical line to the left of the first letter.

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