

7 PROPOSED WIND TURBINES AT PORT OF DUNDEE, STANNERGATE (AN140-2009)

On the 24th March 2009, Atmos Consulting, on behalf of Forth Energy made a formal request to the Council for a Screening Opinion under the terms of Regulation 5 of Environmental Impact Assessment (Scotland) Regulations 1999 as amended. Forth Energy are proposing a development of 3 wind turbines each with the capacity of 2-2.5MW and a maximum tip height of 135m. This size is not dissimilar to the turbines at the Michelin factory.

Atmos Consulting have submitted a report on the proposals in order to assist the Council in the formation of their Screening Opinion. Members already have access to this report.

The report indicates that Forth Ports are seeking to attract new renewable energy companies to the city to form a centre for wind energy manufacturing and that the proposed development will provide a centre for research and development as well as being a provider of green power for the manufacturer. The report notes the nature conservation designations in the Tay Estuary immediately adjacent to the site but concludes that the development will not have a significant impact on these designations.

This request for a screening opinion has been assessed in terms of the Regulations including Schedule 3 to the Regulations and the advice offered by the Scottish Government in Circular 8/2007.

Scottish Natural Heritage have been consulted about this development. In their response they set out the various issues that need to be addressed by any future application to construct the proposed wind turbines but leave it to the Council to decide whether a formal Environmental Impact Assessment is required.

On the basis of the information submitted, the Council considers that the proposal is not likely to give rise to significant environmental effects. However, any planning application for this development will need to provide a substantial amount of information to indicate how the nature conservation interests immediately adjacent to the site are not adversely affected, and in particular the issue of bird ecology needs to be addressed in sufficient detail. On this basis it is concluded that the submission of a formal environmental statement is not required in this case. The Environmental Assessment Regulations provide that if the party making the request for the screening opinion is not satisfied, they may seek a direction from the Scottish Government. Such a direction may support or alter the local authority's opinion.

In conclusion, it is recommended that the Committee remits the Director of Planning and Transportation to issue a screening opinion to Atmos Consulting in the above terms based on the Director's assessment of the proposals.