



## **HARLEY PLANNING CONSULTANTS LTD.**

1 MELMOUNT PARK, STRABANE, CO TYRONE, BT82 9SU  
T: +44-2871886570 M: +44-7463541149  
E: JHARLEYCONSULT@MAIL.COM  
VAT REG. NO. 186028888

### **PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF WIND ENERGY PROJECT IN THE TOWNLANDS OF MEENAMANRAGH, GRAFFY & DALRAGHAN MORE GLENTIES WITH A GRID CONNECTION FROM A PROPOSED SUBSTATION AT MEENAGRUBBY VIA THE TOWNLANDS OF MEENAMANARAGH, GRAFFY, BANGANBOY, STRACASHEL, MEENAMALARAGH TO THE TIEVEBRACK ESB STATION AT DRUMNALOUGH, GLENTIES.**

1. Planning permission was granted in February 2011 for the development of a wind farm consisting of 13 turbines (An Bord Pleanála Ref. No: PL 05B.237656), as shown on Map No. 1 attached.
2. The shares in Cuilfeach Teoranta, the original development company associated with the permitted wind farm, have been acquired by the directors of SMR International Wind Parks Ltd., who wish to amend the proposal, by changing the permitted turbine type and reducing the number of turbines.
3. Eight (8) turbines are now proposed in lieu of the thirteen (13) permitted turbines and are sited generally at locations previously permitted. However, the spread of the turbines in the new layout is more confined than the permitted layout, as shown on the attached Map No.2. An alternative site for the wind farm substation has also been identified at Meenagrubby.
4. It is proposed to make a planning application for four Enercon E126 and four Enercon E115 turbines, which will be in place for 25 years from the date of commissioning. The turbine locations are shown on the attached Map No 2. The four Enercon E126 turbines have a hub height of 86 metres and a blade diameter of 127 metres, giving a blade tip height of 149.5 metres. The four Enercon E115 turbines have a hub height of 92 metres and a blade diameter of 115.7 metres, giving a blade tip height of 149.85 metres. The turbines will connect underground to the proposed substation/control room and thereon to the Eirgrid station at Tievebrack and no overhead lines are proposed.
5. The proposed grid connection line will extend for circa 7kms from the substation/control room location at Meenagrubby, westwards to the Tievebrack



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- Eirgrid station at Drumnalough. For the most part the grid connection will follow the local county road, before turning into and along the private road serving the Tievebrack Eirgrid station. The grid connection route is shown on Map No 3 attached.
6. The turbines will be delivered from Killybegs via the N56 to Donegal Town and then along the N15, before turning at the Roadhouse Bar at Cappry to join the R252 to Ballinamore. From Ballinamore the haul route will use local county roads to reach the project site from the east. Construction vehicles to the wind farm site will also use this route, which is considered to be the optimum route in terms of interference with the local community. Map No. 4 is attached, depicting the delivery route,.
  7. As part of the planning application, the project will have a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), which will address all potential impacts of the project. The potential impacts assessed will include, among a range of topics, impacts on human beings, the landscape, biodiversity, geology, hydrogeology, noise, shadow flicker, archaeology and air quality.
  8. Subject to the project being commissioned, a Community Benefit Fund ( CBF ) will be established that will provide compensation payments to occupied dwellings within 1 Km of any turbine and will also be used to fund local community projects.
  9. This fund will be calculated, based on Government recommendations and will be administered by a committee consisting of local people. All local projects will be eligible to apply for support from this fund.
  10. It had been proposed to arrange a public meeting at the Edeninfagh Hall in early April, but the escalation of the coronavirus and Government advice, restricting contacts by groups of people, has prohibited this means of engagement with the local community.
  11. Members of the general public are now invited to submit their views on the project by returning their comments in writing, or by the pre-paid envelope attached to the information pack delivered to houses in the vicinity of the wind park.
  12. A dedicated website has been created ([www.graffywindpark.com](http://www.graffywindpark.com)) for the project, which will also enable the general public to submit their views under the CONTACT



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- US menu. This website will be maintained throughout the project, from planning through to construction and operation and eventually decommissioning.
13. Alternatively comments and submissions on the proposal may be emailed to [comments@graffywindpark.com](mailto:comments@graffywindpark.com).
  14. Renewable energy is recognised as having a vital part to play in Ireland meeting its Kyoto targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Ireland faces significant challenges through efforts to meet its 2020 targets, the EU targets for renewable energy by 2030 and its commitment to transition to a low carbon economy by 2050. It is now clear that Ireland is falling behind meeting its 2020 target for renewable energy, as well as the longer-term movement away from fossil fuels.
  15. Wind energy is critical to helping Ireland address these challenges and is recognised as the renewable source of energy which is the fastest and most economical to put into operation. As such, it is of vital importance in the short to medium term in Ireland's national policy regarding the production of green energy.
  16. Finally, Mr. Noel McDermott and Mr Jim Harley will be the nominated contact liason persons on behalf of the developer and will be available to answer any queries during the pre-planning, planning, construction, operating and decommissioning phases of the project. Details of the telephone contact persons are +44-(0)7463541149 for Mr. Harley and 074 92 06982 for Mr McDermott. As confirmed above, the email address for comments is [comments@graffywindpark.com](mailto:comments@graffywindpark.com).
  17. I would be grateful if your comments could be returned by 30th June 2020, to enable the project team to review the proposal and to make suitable amendments. It is anticipated that the planning application will be submitted in September 2020.

Jim Harley

Harley Planning Consultants