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RES SUBMITS APPLICATION FOR SOLWAYBANK WIND FARM

RES has today submitted a planning application to Dumfries and Galloway Council for Solwaybank Wind Farm located south of the B7068 between Langholm and Lockerbie. The wind farm has an approximate capacity of 30MW and, if approved, is likely to generate electricity equivalent to the average demand of more than 17,000 households – or approximately 25% of the households in Dumfries and Galloway.

Ruth Elder, Project Manager for Solwaybank Wind Farm, commented: *“RES first submitted an application for Solwaybank Wind Farm in 2009 and following feedback from statutory consultees and the local community on how the project would affect the landscape, we decided to withdraw the application in order to redesign the site. We have taken on board the comments and we are now proposing a reduced 15 turbine layout at Solwaybank with a maximum height to tip of 126.5m.”*

RES has undertaken a comprehensive consultation process with the local communities and has created a Community Liaison Group with representatives from 11 community councils and members of the public to act as a forum to discuss the proposal. RES consulted the local community through a variety of methods including:

- Meeting with residents and representatives from the community councils;
- A newsletter and invitation to the public exhibitions distributed to over 8,800 houses and businesses within 11 community council areas surrounding the wind farm;
- Public exhibitions that were held in June and July, enabling residents to fill in questionnaires, ask questions and leave comments;
- Formation of a Community Liaison Group;
- A dedicated project website www.solwaybank-windfarm.co.uk;
- Telephone survey of local residents.

Ruth commented: *“We have sought the views of local residents through questionnaires at the public exhibitions and a telephone survey conducted by independent market research company, Populus. The results from the telephone survey showed that 65% of residents support the proposal and 25% oppose.”*

RES is proposing a community fund of approximately £60,000 per year and there will also be opportunities for local contractors during the construction period as RES has a policy of sourcing goods and services locally wherever possible.

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Notes to editors:

1. RES is one of the world's leading independent renewable energy project developers with operations across Europe, North America and Asia-Pacific. RES, a British company, has been at the forefront of wind energy development since the 1970s, RES has developed and/or built more than 5 GW of wind energy capacity worldwide, including around 10% of the UK's wind energy. In Scotland, RES has developed and/or owns seven wind farm projects. The RES Group is active in a range of renewable energy technologies (biomass, solar, onshore and offshore wind, wave and tidal), as well as sustainable building design. For more information, visit www.res-group.com.
2. RES has consulted with the following 11 community councils: Canonbie and District Community Council, Dalton and Carrutherstown Community Council, Eskdalemuir Community Council, Gretna and Rigg Community Council, Hoddam and Ecclefechan Community Council, Kirkpatrick Flemming and District Community Council, Kirtle and Eaglesfield Community Council, Langholm, Ewes and Westerkirk Community Council, Lockerbie and District Community Council, Middlebie and Waterbeck Community Council, and Springfield and Gretna Green Community Council.
3. The planning application and supporting documents will be available to view during normal opening hours at the following locations: Dumfries and Galloway Council Planning Office, Lockerbie; Lockerbie Library; Gretna Customer Service Centre; and Langholm Customer Service Centre.

CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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