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RES TO APPEAL SOLWAYBANK WIND FARM REFUSAL

Leading British renewable energy company RES has today announced its intention to appeal against the decision made by Dumfries and Galloway Council to refuse consent for the Solwaybank Wind Farm, located south of the B7068 between Lockerbie and Langholm. The appeal submission coincides with the withdrawal of radar objections.

In February this year, Dumfries and Galloway Council refused the wind farm proposal because of the potential impact to the Eskdalemuir seismological station and air traffic control radars. However, last week the Scottish Government announced that the objections relating to Eskdalemuir for all wind farms applying for planning permission before December 2013 would be removed. RES has also been working with the radar operators (MOD and NATS) to identify suitable mitigation, which has resulted in both those parties being able to lift their previous objections.

Ruth Elder, Development Project Manager said *“The long awaited outcome to the Eskdalemuir research has concluded that no further objection is justified in regards to several wind farms including Solwaybank. In light of this, and with appropriate mitigation measures now agreed with the MOD and NATS, RES believes that the project should be consented. This project has the potential to contribute to the country’s ambitious renewable energy targets as well as provide tangible benefits to the local community.”*

Solwaybank Wind Farm could be capable of generating enough renewable electricity to power the equivalent average demand of more than 19,000 households.

If RES’ appeal is successful, the wind farm would also bring a community benefits package for the local community worth over £3.75 million comprising of a community benefit fund and a Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS). Under the LEDS initiative those residential, community and business properties closest to Solwaybank Wind Farm become eligible for a minimum discount of £100 off their electricity bills.

Following extensive consultation, RES submitted a planning application in November 2011 for 15 turbines each with a maximum height of 126.5m to the tip of the blade. This was following a previous application in 2009 for a 21 turbine scheme which was withdrawn following feedback from statutory consultees and the local community. The appeal has been submitted to the Scottish Government’s Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals (DPEA).



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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, the Americas and Asia-Pacific. At the forefront of wind energy development for over 30 years, RES has developed and/or built more than 8,000MW of wind energy capacity worldwide. In the UK alone, RES currently has more than 1,000MW of wind energy projects either constructed, under construction or consented. RES is active in a range of renewable energy technologies including large-scale biomass, solar, wave and tidal and on-site renewable installations. For more information, visit www.res-group.com

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